

## Israelis kill boy in Sidon

BEIRUT (AP) — An 11-year-old boy was fatally wounded and two other minors were seriously injured Sunday when Israeli troops opened fire in retaliation for a rocket attack on their patrol in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, witnesses said. The two-car patrol was driving through the Riad Solh street in the heart of Sidon when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at it, said the witnesses, who asked not to be named. They said the Israelis quickly jumped out of the vehicles and began shooting. The boy, identified as 11-year-old George Attallah, was on the pavement about 100 metres from the patrol. He was struck by three bullets and rushed to a hospital, but died under surgery, according to the witnesses. The two others — Bassel Khatib, 13, and Shawkil Osta — were travelling in a car driven by Khatib's aunt when the shooting occurred.

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## Happy New Year

Due to the New Year holiday, the Jordan Times will not be published on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1985. Our next issue will thus appear on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 1985. The editor and staff of the Jordan Times take this opportunity to wish all of our readers and advertisers a very happy and prosperous new year.

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## King condolences Fayez family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday called at the residence of the late Ali Mithqal Al Fayez and extended his condolences to Al Fayez family and Bani Sakhr tribes on the death of Sheikh Ali. King Hussein was received by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez and a number of his family members.

## Third Hamza Field yields oil

AMMAN (J.T.) — New indications of the existence of oil reserves in Jordan unfolded Sunday as drilling work at the Third Hamza Field reached a depth of 3,000 metres, well-informed sources said Sunday. The sources told the Jordan Times that final results of the existence of oil in the Third Hamza Field will be known in 10 days when the drilling is expected to reach 3,800 metres. Primary findings, however, indicated that the oil field is an extension of the Second Hamza Field where oil was located at the depth of 3,510 metres three months ago. The sources said that a delegation from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will visit Baghdad soon to benefit from the Iraqi expertise in oil exploration.

## 2 Israelis wounded in Lebanon attack

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli soldiers were wounded Sunday when their convoy was ambushed near the South Lebanese village of Sakakiyeh, southwest of Sidon, an Israeli army spokesman said. Israeli soldiers began searching the area for the attackers as the wounded were taken to hospital, the spokesman said.

## Shamir said to favour Taba force

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted by an Israeli newspaper Sunday as saying he would accept the deployment of a small force peace-keeping force in the Red Sea coastal strip of Taba, claimed by Egypt and Israel. Mr. Shamir was not immediately available for comment but the Yedioth Ahranoth newspaper quoted him as saying that Israel had suggested deploying such a force there in April, 1982 but Egypt had rejected the proposal at the time.

## MEA plane diverted after bomb threat

LARNACA (R) — A Middle East Airlines (MEA) Boeing-720 airliner on a flight from Beirut to Athens made an emergency landing at Larnaca Sunday after the pilot was warned there was possibly a bomb on board. Security sources at Larnaca airport said the 31 passengers and eight crew had left the aircraft, which was being searched in a remote corner of the airfield. Air traffic officials said the plane was diverted to Cyprus while flying close to the Aegean island of Rhodes after air traffic control at Athens radioed the captain with the bomb warning.

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# Arafat says Syria involved in Qawasmeh's murder

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer  
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday accused Syria of masterminding the assassination of Fahd Al Qawasmeh, a PLO Executive Committee member, who was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen Saturday.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived from South Yemen early Sunday upon hearing the news of the assassination, told reporters on arrival: "Let the hiring killers and the rulers of Damascus who protect them and defend them know that they will not be able to destroy the will and determination of our people or stop the Palestinian revolution."

The PLO leader repeated the accusation while visiting the residence of Mr. Qawasmeh to offer condolences to the slain PLO official's family.

"Again I say to the rulers of Damascus that they shall not terrorise the revolution. Abu Khaled's (Mr. Qawasmeh) blood will

be a curse upon every traitor to Palestine," he said. "We all know that Syria helped the hand of Zionists, because the Zionists did not kill Abu Khaled. Syria did that for them."

Differences between the PLO and Syrian leadership emerged last year when Damascus backed a rebellion within the ranks of the PLO. The PLO leader accused Syria of inciting and encouraging the rebellion and the Damascus leadership, denying the charges, ordered him out of the country. Since then, mediation efforts have failed to heal the rift and several PLO factions — some independent and others supported by Syria — are still based in Dam-

ascus. Two assassins with silenced pistols shot Mr. Qawasmeh as he was getting out of his car in front of his home Saturday afternoon.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a Palestinian source in Amman as saying Jordanian authorities had arrested four men suspected of involvement in the killing.

There was no immediate official confirmation. A security source in Amman said investigations were continuing but gave no details.

A person who telephoned the French news agency, Agence France Presse, in Paris claimed responsibility Saturday for the attack in the name of "Black September," a radical PLO faction opposed to Mr. Arafat and his policies.

Hundreds of people stood shoulder-to-shoulder inside and outside Mr. Qawasmeh's home in the Jabal Hussein neighbourhood.

Some wept softly as Mr. Arafat spoke and others interrupted him with chants of "Ashat Palestine" — "Long Live Palestine."

One old man in traditional garb screamed for vengeance against

Syria. "Abu Ammar," he cried, "Don't leave us for Syria to kill us one by one."

After leaving the Qawasmeh house, Mr. Arafat rode to the PLO's Amman headquarters, where scores of Jordanian and foreign dignitaries had gathered to express their sorrow.

The PLO announced a three-day period of mourning. The funeral was expected to be held on Monday.

## Qawasmeh to be buried today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The funeral of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Fahd Qawasmeh will take place Monday in Amman, a PLO spokesman said Sunday. The spokesman said the funeral services will be held at the University of Jordan Mosque at noon Monday before the body is buried at the Umm Al Hiran Cemetery on the outskirts of Amman.



Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeh (wearing white headress) with Omar (right) and Muammar, sons of Fahd Qawasmeh, the PLO Executive Committee member who was shot dead in Amman by unknown gunmen Saturday (Petra photo)

## Hussein, Arafat hold talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat held talks at Al Nadwa Palace Sunday night but no details were available on the topics discussed.

The meeting, which included a working dinner, was the third between the two leaders during the last 10 days. Mr. Arafat left Amman to South Yemen last Thursday after holding two rounds of talks with the King on joint political moves to solve the Palestinian question. He returned to Amman early Sunday upon hearing the news of the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fahd Al Qawasmeh.

The Jordanian side at Sunday's meeting included His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulaiman Arar, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud, Major General Tareq Alaeddine, director general of the General Intelligence Department, and Rajai Dajani, secretary general of the Royal Court.

The Palestinian side at the talks was represented by Palestine National Council Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeh, PLO Executive Committee members Eila Khouri, Brigadier Abdul Razak Al Yahya and Ajaweed Al Ghoussein, and Fateh Central Committee members Khalil Wazir, Salah Khalaf, and Hani Al Hassan.

## Andreotti arrives Friday on 2-day visit

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti is due to arrive here Friday on a two-day official visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Hussein as part of Italy's current political contacts to move the Middle East peace process.

A spokesman for the Italian embassy in Amman said Mr. Andreotti's visit to Jordan "is in continuation of the recent Italian diplomatic moves in the Middle East, in preparation for an Italian initiative to be launched during Italy's forthcoming presidency of the European Community (EC)," to solve the problem in the region.

The spokesman, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the EC's Venice Declaration of 1980 which won the support of all Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "was launched during Italy's presidency of the EC. We hope our new initiative will gain the support of all parties and bring peace to the area."

Mr. Andreotti accompanied Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi on an official visit to Tunis earlier this month, during which they met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Craxi was quoted in Tunis as saying the PLO has opted for a peaceful Middle East solution and urged Palestinian leaders to form a common negotiating position with Jordan.

Meanwhile, Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini, who opposed the Craxi-Arafat meeting in Tunis, left Tel Aviv Sunday.

## Beirut may table new proposals at Naqoura

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government is likely to present new proposals when talks with Israel on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon resume on Jan. 7, Foreign Ministry sources said Sunday.

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad reached an understanding in Damascus last week on "points of rapprochement" which Beirut hoped Israel would accept, the sources said.

But they declined to reveal what new terms Lebanon would present when Lebanese and Israeli military negotiators meet for a 12th round of talks at U.N. forces headquarters in the border village of Naqoura.

At the last session on Dec. 20, Israel threatened to break off the talks unless Beirut agreed to a major security role for U.N. troops in Lebanon and deployment of an Israeli-backed militia along the border.

Lebanon has insisted its own army take control of all occupied territory and rejected a role for the militia. At the Damascus talks, Syria backed Lebanese demands for the "unconditional liberation" of the Israeli-occupied south.

State-run Beirut Radio reported, meanwhile, that a multi-sectarian military council was expected to set a date Monday for implementing long-delayed plans to extend state authority between

Beirut and Israel's Awali River "front line."

Prime Minister Rashid Karami said Saturday he was optimistic after the Gemayel-Assad meeting that the plan, delayed by Lebanese factional objections, would be implemented soon.

Shi'ite Muslim minister Nabih Berri, who threatened last week to boycott cabinet meetings if no action was decided by this weekend, said Saturday "all are unanimous there is a climate of optimism."

Syria, the main powerbroker in Lebanon, supports the plan to send army troops into militia-held territory to stop fighting between rival militias in the Kharrub region adjacent to the Awali River.

But despite the apparent agreement on the plan, radios reported artillery duels along the coastal road near the village of Damour 15 kilometres south of Beirut Sunday.

In Beirut itself, relatives of people kidnapped during the 10-year civil war blocked all crossings between mostly Christian east and mainly-Muslim west Beirut for the fourth straight day.

The protest began after a Shi'ite woman committed suicide last week because after failing to find her 13-year-old son kidnapped nine months ago.

Israeli claims to Lebanon denounced: Asiran: Resistance only solution in South Lebanon, page 2

## Mother Teresa says famine is God's lesson

JIJIGA, Ethiopia (R) — Nobel laureate Mother Teresa, on a visit to drought-stricken Ethiopia, said Sunday the country's famine was God's way of teaching the world the lesson of charity.

"God is teaching us a lesson. He is giving us the opportunity to give until it hurts," the 75-year-old leader of the Missionaries for Charity order told journalists who accompanied her to eastern Ethiopia this weekend.

Mother Teresa said she had asked the Ethiopian government to let her set up a centre for the disabled, orphaned and sick in an Addis Ababa palace now used for state functions.

"I told the government I was not joking. They thought I was a bit off. It has nice big rooms, you journalists must come and help clean it," she said of the palace, one-time residence of the late Emperor Haile Selassie.

Mother Teresa was speaking in Jijiga, 450 kilometres from Addis Ababa, at a centre where some of the order's 29 nuns in Ethiopia look after and feed ailing children and adults of the country's nine million famine victims.

Mother Teresa said she asked the head of the country's Relief

and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), Dawit Wolde Giorgis, for the palace after seeing devastating scenes of hunger on a tour of northern Ethiopian famine centres last week.

She did not disclose what Mr. Dawit's reply was. The building, which has huge grounds and a network of villas for guests, is used mainly to entertain visiting dignitaries.

Mother Teresa, dressed in her customary white robes with blue borders and open sandals, told journalists in a lengthy and rare interview that she was struck by the way victims of the worst famine Africa has known, accepted their plight.

"I was taken by the people's silent forbearance. They are beautiful — not a word of complaint," she said of the hundreds of thousands who sit in famine camps waiting for food, many for death.

"They don't ask why it is happening to them. The first thing I would ask is why it was happening to me," she said.

No official figure for famine deaths has been published but Western aid agencies estimate that at least 300,000 people have died, perhaps three times that number.

## Only Israel unwilling to talk peace, Greens say

TEL AVIV (AP) — Members of a delegation from West Germany's Greens Party said Sunday their tour of the Middle East has convinced them Israel is the only country in the region unwilling to negotiate for peace.

"Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) — at least they are all willing to come to the table, which is necessary to ease tensions," said one delegation member, Ulrich Tilgner.

"Israel is not ready to attend an international conference," he said.

Israel has rejected calls for a U.N.-sponsored conference that would include the PLO and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Tilgner, speaking on the last day of the party's five-day visit, said even though Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has sought negotiations with Jordan, "he says that Jordan has to distance itself from the PLO. And this is a condition Jordan can't accept."

Mr. Tilgner said the group plans to offer proposals for a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict, based on the need for negotiations, once it returns to West Germany.

The delegation from the left-wing anti-NATO Greens Party also visited Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Many Israelis opposed the visit of the Greens, accusing them of "disguising renewed anti-Semitism" by anti-Zionist slogans and of supporting the Palestinian cause.

On Wednesday, a brief scuffle broke out on the parliament floor as an Israeli Arab member of the Communist Party ripped a placard from the hands of two right-wing colleagues that said in German: "Greens out."

Israel denied entry to a seventh delegation member, Miss Brigitte Heinrich, member of the European Parliament, accusing her of links with the PLO.

Miss Heinrich told the Jordan Times after being denied entry to the West Bank that the Israeli occupation authorities still have "to announce the real reasons" for refusing her entry.

When she told an official at the King Hussein Bridge that she was entering Jordanian territory, the official replied: "This is Israeli territory."

During their visit to the occupied territories, the Greens team also met with leaders of the Palestinian population living under the Israeli occupation and expressed their party's support for the Palestinian cause.

## Palestinians, Arabs condemn assassination of PLO leader

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer  
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Two Damascus-based factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Palestinian leaders in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Egyptian government Sunday condemned the assassination of Fahd Qawasmeh, a PLO Executive Committee member, who was shot to death in Amman by unidentified gunmen Saturday.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), one of the Syrian-based PLO factions, said the murder of Mr. Qawasmeh was "a crime which opened the door to internal Palestinian fighting."

In a statement issued at its Damascus headquarters, the DFLP said Palestinian circles reacted with "deep regret."

This criminal act comes at a time when imperialist and Zionist forces and those in collusion with them are trying to exploit the division (within the ranks of the PLO)... to strike at the PLO before liquidating the Palestinian cause," the DFLP statement said.

"This crime opens the door to self-destruction and fighting

among Palestinians," it added. Another PLO faction based in Syria, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), also denounced the killing of Mr. Qawasmeh and said such assassinations could only help deepen inter-Palestinian rifts.

The DFLP and PFLP both belong to a "democratic alliance" which has called for a dialogue with the mainstream of the PLO supporting Yasser Arafat as chairman.

But it joined hardline, Syrian-backed factions opposed to Mr. Arafat's leadership in boycotting a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman last month when Mr. Qawasmeh, regarded as a Palestinian moderate, was elected to the PLO Executive Committee.

Palestinian leaders in the occupied West Bank said they were stunned and saddened by the assassination of Mr. Qawasmeh and said they were seeking to bring his body for burial in his native Hebron.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij called Mr. Qawasmeh's death "a great loss to our people and a black spot in our history."

He said Mr. Qawasmeh's family would apply to the Israelis to allow

the body to be buried in Hebron, 45 kilometres south of Jerusalem. Other West Bank leaders said they would seek permission to attend Mr. Qawasmeh's funeral in Amman.

"We are very sorry for this act and we condemn it," said Mustafa Natshe, a former deputy to Mr. Qawasmeh who succeeded him as acting mayor of Hebron in 1980. Mr. Natshe was also deposed by Israel in 1983.

Bassam Shaka'a, a staunch Palestinian nationalist deposed by Israel as Nablus mayor in 1982, was "very sorry over the news," according to his son, Hayasan.

Mr. Shaka'a lost his legs in a car bombing one month after Mr. Qawasmeh's deportation in May 1980.

"The people are completely stunned," said Mr. Freij in a telephone interview.

Israel Radio quoted former Gaza Mayor Rashad Shawas saying he hoped "the grief of the assassination would show Palestinians the futility" of political killings in resolving their problems.

Fayez Qawasmeh called on the Israeli occupation authorities to

(Continued on page 3)

## Pravda criticises shuttle mission

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party newspaper Pravda on Sunday said January's military mission of the U.S. peace shuttle shows that the United States intends to continue "preparations for star wars" despite the upcoming U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva.

In a year-end review of international issues, Pravda said the public "expects a positive result from the meeting" and praised Soviet arms proposals as providing a good foundation for reaching an arms control accord.

But the article, written by analyst Yuri Zhukov, cautioned against "unwarranted illusions" about the meeting Jan. 7-8 between Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

Zhukov did not elaborate. But he seemed to suggest — as have other Soviet commentators — that the Geneva meeting is only a tentative first step towards arms control and does not represent a breakthrough since Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko will only discuss subjects for future talks.

## New Indian cabinet to be sworn in today

NEW DELHI (R) — The "new blood" cabinet of victorious Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, designed to implement his pledges of dynamic development in a more unified India, will be sworn in Monday.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency, reporting this, also said Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party had now gained an overwhelming 80 per cent majority in parliament following last week's elections.

"This is indeed a new era," the 40-year-old prime minister told dancing, drum-beating supporters as the magnitude of his victory became clear, less than two months after the assassination of his mother and predecessor Indira Gandhi.

Meanwhile at least four people were killed and more than 20 injured in scattered violence accompanying the count of votes

which gave Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party an overwhelming 80 per cent of the seats in the new parliament.

Mr. Gandhi, whose victory delighted businessmen and brought a boom on stock markets (See page 7), was reported by Congress (I) officials to be planning big changes in his cabinet, probably dropping some veterans in favour of fresh talent more attuned to rapid modernisation and clean and efficient administration.

"Rajiv is a stickler for cleanliness and results," one senior partyman told Reuters. "I wouldn't be surprised if many of his present team are dropped."

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# U.S. to increase aid to drought-hit Sudan

**KHARTOUM (AP) —** The United States will increase its economic aid to Sudan in 1985 to help ease impact of drought in this country, U.S. Ambassador Hume Horan said on Saturday.

In a statement to the Sudan News Agency SUNA, Mr. Horan said Sudan will get a total of \$250 million in 1985, an increase of \$31 million over 1984.

He said \$19 million of the increased aid will be earmarked for combating drought and desertification.

SUNA said Mr. Horan made the statement following a meeting with President Jaafar Numeiri during which the two men discussed the situation in Sudan in light of the drought that hit eastern and western parts of the country.

Mr. Horan said he briefed Mr. Numeiri in details on the U.S. aid programme to Sudan for 1985 which will include providing this African nation with 650,000 metric tons of grains in addition to

other food supplies. The ambassador expressed hope that the U.S. aid "will play an effective role in fulfilling the needs of the population in the drought-stricken areas."

Meanwhile Sudanese government troops overran a rebel camp in southern Sudan on Friday, killing 83 rebels and wounding an undetermined number, a source at the General Command of the Sudanese People's Armed Forces said Sunday.

The Sudan News Agency quoted the source as saying three government troops were killed and five wounded during the attack on the camp in Bentiu area, around 880 kilometres south of Khartoum.

On Friday, SUNA quoted an

army spokesman as saying government troops killed 600 rebels in "fierce fighting" on Dec. 25 in the Goglei area, south of Bor, some 1,100 kilometres south of here.

The General Command source said ten automatic rifles were captured as well as a machine gun, two rocket launchers, two radio sets, explosives and ammunition. Bentiu is the main site for Sudanese oil exploration activities, and earlier this year several oil companies were forced to stop activities after several rebel attacks on their camps. Operations have recently been resumed.

Southern rebels fighting against Mr. Numeiri's government blame him for lack of development in the south, decrease of their regional autonomy and the implementation of Islamic Law in September 1983.

The southerners are mainly Christians and animists in comparison with the Muslim majority in the north.



**ARAFAT VISITS QAWASMEH RESIDENCE:** Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Sunday visits the residence of the assassinated member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, Fahd Qawasme, who was killed by gunmen near his house in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

## Pope Shenouda to lead Coptic Christmas services

**CAIRO (AP) —** The patriarch of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church, banished in a remote desert monastery since 1981, will lead Christmas services on Jan. 6, a church official confirmed Sunday.

Father Samuel, Pope Shenouda III's personal secretary, told the Associated Press by telephone that the Pope would be released in time to lead Christmas services at Cairo's Morcosia Church. He declined to say when the Pope would leave the desert monastery.

The Coptic Christmas is celebrated on the evening of Jan. 6. This will be the Pope's first appearance in Cairo since he retired to the monastery between Cairo and Alexandria following a dispute with the late President Anwar Sadat over the treatment of Egypt's estimated six million

Coptic Christians. The Christian weekly newspaper Watan (my nation) said Sunday that extensive security measures would be taken to safeguard the Pope's safety while attending the Christmas celebrations.

It said the services would be attended by invited guests only, and that there would be no private cars allowed in the area without passes. It also said a number of Christians chosen from each parish would be allowed to extend their congratulations to the Pope after Jan. 7 accompanied by their parish priests.

Pope Shenouda is the 117th leader of the Coptic church since St. Mark. Mr. Sadat accused Pope Shenouda of fomenting Coptic-Muslim strife.

## Israel recruits Swedes for Lavi project

**STOCKHOLM (R) —** Israel is actively recruiting Swedish aerospace technicians to work on its Lavi fighter project, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The Stockholm daily Dagens Nyheter said state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries was trying to lure engineers from the Swedish aerospace firm Saab-Scania AB by offering huge tax-free salaries.

It said a British consultancy firm had advertised positions on behalf of the Israeli company, offering Swedish engineers a net \$52,000 to \$70,000 per year — up to four times their current pre-tax salaries.

## Israeli jailed for refusing military duty

**TEL AVIV (R) —** The Israeli army has sentenced a senior physics professor to 14 days in jail for refusing military reserve duty in southern Lebanon, the Yedioth Achronoth newspaper said Sunday.

The report said Daniel Amit, 46, chairman of the Physics Institute of Hebrew University, was court-martialed last week after he told his commanding officers he would defy a call-up order. Amit is a first sergeant in the army reserves.

"If more people were ready to be punished over the absurdity of serving in Lebanon and refused to participate in this absurdity, the decision-makers would get the message," he was quoted as telling a military judge.

Amit, who is also deputy chairman of the Israeli Civil Liberties Union, was to begin serving a two-week term in a military stockade Sunday, the newspaper said.

About 100 Israelis have gone to jail rather than serve in Lebanon since the 1982 Israeli invasion.

# Year of strife leaves war-weary Lebanese still groping for peace

By Alistair Lyon

**BEIRUT —** For Lebanon, 1984 was a year of military upsets, shifting alliances and unremitting violence that left a war-weary people still groping for an end to foreign occupation and almost 10 years of civil strife.

The once buoyant economy sank further. Unemployment rose, prices soared, production stagnated and the Lebanese pound plummeted to record lows. Syria, replacing Washington as President Amin Gemayel's main external supporter, nudged warring factions towards compromise.

But some 2,000 people died violently and at year-end discord in the Syrian-backed national unity cabinet barred progress on programmes to restore peace and implement political reforms demanded by the opposition.

Fighting that pitted the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) forces against the army and a Christian militia threatened to spill over from the mountains above Beirut into the capital.

Factional battles in the Kharrub region intensified as plans to deploy the Lebanese army southwards to Israel's front line on the Awali River were repeatedly postponed.

Talks on ending the 30-month-old Israeli occupation bogged down over who would police the area after their withdrawal, as southerners and Israeli troops pursued a bloody cycle of resistance and repression.

Syria refused to guarantee that it would keep its 40,000 troops now in east and north Lebanon out of areas Israel might vacate, and prevent incursions by Palestinian commandos based behind Syrian lines.

Yet the picture was bleaker a year ago. Then Mr. Gemayel was battling for his administration's survival against opposition militias backed by Syria, which bitterly opposed his alliance with Washington.

The army rained shells on southern suburbs of Beirut and, with U.S. warships adding their formidable firepower, on Druze mountain villages.

Troops fuelled opposition resentment by enforcing a nightly curfew in mainly Muslim west Beirut but not the east.

Devastating bomb attacks on U.S. and French servicemen had forced a Western Multinational Force to concentrate on self-defence, its original peacekeeping mission compromised by local perceptions that it had become just another faction in the Lebanese conflict.

When opposition militiamen, mainly of the Shi'ite Amal Movement and the Druze-led PSP, seized control of west Beirut from the army in February, the United States, Britain and Italy hastily withdrew their contingents, followed soon after by the French.

The army split along religious lines, factional forces once again

down Beirut's shattered city centre, and Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri and PSP leader Walid Junblatt demanded the president's resignation.

But Mr. Gemayel clung to power, bowing to Syrian pressure to scrap a U.S.-sponsored May 1983 troop withdrawal accord with Israel and thereby winning the approval of Damascus.

Syria brought Lebanese warlords together at an inconclusive reconciliation conference in Switzerland in March and asked a trusted ally, Rashid Karami, to become prime minister and weld them into a national unity government.

It took the cabinet six weeks to get parliamentary approval for a programme designed to restore government authority and enact reforms to give the Muslim majority more political power.

Three weeks elapsed before the militias let the army regain a shaky control over Beirut in July, halting months of fighting and blinding shelling that killed or maimed hundreds of civilians.

During the tense truce that followed, the airport and port reopened for the first time in five months. The government shut down an Israeli liaison office north of Beirut and U.S. Marines left a heavily fortified embassy compound in west Beirut.

In September security lapses allowed a suicide truck bomber to devastate the U.S. embassy in its new and supposedly safer east Beirut quarters, killing at least 12 people. Credit for the attack was claimed by the Islamic Jihad (holy war) group.

Ten days of cabinet convalescence the same month failed to produce progress on political reforms and Mr. Junblatt complained the country's future was being "buried in committees."

But with the start of U.N.-hosted troop withdrawal talks with Israel in November, the focus shifted to ensuring a smooth army takeover of the south after an Israeli pullout.

Despite deadlock with Israel, a deeply divided cabinet and an economy on the brink of ruin, the government counted on a few successes in 1984 — its own continued existence being one.

In the south, signs of Christian-Muslim solidarity against the Israeli occupation diminished fears that Israeli withdrawal would touch off a sectarian bloodbath.

In the north, rival militias left the streets of Tripoli under a Syrian-brokered deal that let the army take control of the city for the first time since 1975.

The cabinet ordered an apparently successful crackdown on illegal ports that had drained most state revenue for years.

Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Berri both argued that success for plans to extend government authority to militia-held areas beyond Beirut would effectively end a decade of civil war.

## Israeli claims to Lebanon denounced

**BEIRUT (R) —** A prominent Muslim cleric has described calls by ultra-nationalist Israelis for Jewish settlements in South Lebanon as "intimidation" to force Lebanon to compromise its sovereignty over occupied territory.

Sheikh Mahmoud Farhat, director-general of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Muslim Council, was quoted by Lebanon's National News Agency as saying: "Israeli

talk of settlements in the South is intimidation and outright blackmail."

The goal of such talk was "to push the Lebanese negotiator towards making concessions," Sheikh Farhat said, referring to deadlocked Lebanese-Israeli negotiations on ending Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon.

The group of 20 ultra-nationalist Israelis who want to

build the settlements is led by Yuri Heller, who told an Israeli newspaper this week that he regarded southern Lebanon "as part of the Biblical land of Israel, divinely promised to the Jews."

"Israel cannot protect its troops in southern Lebanon, so how can it protect any civilian presence there," Sheikh Farhat said. More than 600 Israeli soldiers have been killed in Lebanon since Israel's invasion in June 1982.

agreement or conciliation.

In this regard, Mr. Asiran called for uniting efforts to overcome the ordeal which Lebanon has been suffering from for ten years and to prove to the Israelis that the Lebanese army is able to safeguard the security of Lebanon.

The deployment of the Lebanese army along the coastal road has become vital in order to enable the Lebanese army to prepare for redeployment in the South following the Israeli withdrawal from that part, he said.

"The Lebanese army has major tasks at this delicate stage. It has a major task towards liberating the occupied land from the Israeli invaders, in addition to maintaining security."

In answer to a question about the internal fighting and disputes, Mr. Asiran said the government is working seriously on putting an end to the deteriorating security situation in Lebanon and is laying down bases for security and stability over the Lebanese soil.

"The closure of the illegal ports is a proof that the Lebanese government is willing to have control over the security situation in the country," he said.

Asked about his evaluation of

## Asiran: Resistance only solution in South Lebanon

Special from Beirut

**AMMAN (J.T.) —** Lebanese Defence Minister Adel Asiran has said that resistance attacks against the Israeli occupation troops in South Lebanon will be stepped up dramatically if the Jewish states do not stage an immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

Mr. Asiran in an interview added that the only solution lies in stepping up resistance against the Israeli occupation "because Israel does not understand any language other than force."

"Had it not been for the escalation of resistance operations in South Lebanon over the past few months, the Israeli enemy would not have thought of withdrawal or even negotiations," Mr. Asiran said.

The Israeli greed in South Lebanon is well known to all because Israel since its creation has been working on isolating it from Lebanon and annexing it to the Jewish state.

To achieve this end he added, Israel has invaded Lebanon. Mr. Asiran went on to say that, it is not correct that Israel wants "to protect its settlements in the Galilee, because it had expanded its occu-

pation to an area beyond the 45 square kilometres it deemed as necessary for its security."

Resistance, he added, will ultimately force Israel to withdraw unconditionally from the South in fear of sustaining more casualties and losses. "Resistance also made Israel take into consideration a new element it has dropped from its accounts over the past years and particularly after the departure of the Palestinians from Lebanon."

He also expressed the hope that the Lebanese people understand the evil intentions of the Zionist entity and to leave aside their disputes and clashes which harm their interests.

Asked about the outcome of Israeli-Lebanese negotiations in Naqura, Mr. Asiran said: "What Israel is currently doing is part of its policies and that the military negotiations currently underway in Naqura are not but attempts to exercise pressures and blackmail."

"Israel is procrastinating and trying to exploit time for achieving its goals and always avoids giving answers to questions put forward to it by the Lebanese party. It also refrains from complying with the outcome of the talks, depending

on a sole pressuring paper, represented in an unexpected withdrawal coupled with issuing instructions to its agents to explode the situations, thus triggering new tragedies and further bloodshed in the South and Kharrub region."

Mr. Asiran added that the Lebanese would not subjugate to blackmailing and would foil the Israeli plans to disunify the Lebanese people and to flare their internal disputes and consequently lead to further bloodshed.

Israel, as has been established by the past experiences, is not willing to protect the interests of Lebanese people and has no concern over the interests of any certain party in Lebanon. Its main concern lies within its interests.

Asked about the functions and responsibilities of the Lebanese army during the present stage, Mr. Asiran said the Lebanese army deployment plan has been postponed more than once. However, he added, it will be implemented soon whatever the obstacles were.

Mr. Asiran added that he is following up on the subject with senior army officers to avoid any possible setbacks, because Israel is waiting for such a setback to exploit it in obstructing any future

## TV & RADIO

**JORDAN TELEVISION**

**MAIN CHANNEL**

17:00 ..... Koran  
17:30 ..... Cartoons  
17:50 ..... Children's Programme  
18:00 ..... Children's Programme  
18:30 ..... Folklore Programme  
18:40 ..... Programme Review  
19:00 ..... Local Competition Programme  
19:05 ..... Poetry  
19:10 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Chronicle of the Year's Events  
21:00 ..... Arabic Series  
22:05 ..... Tomorrow's Programmes  
22:10 ..... Varieties  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Varieties Contd.

**FOREIGN CHANNEL**

18:00 ..... Varieties  
18:30 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Varieties  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:30 ..... Variety Show  
21:00 ..... Feature Film: With a Song in My Heart  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film continued  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Silk Road

**RADIO JORDAN**  
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM  
& partly on 9560 KHz, SW

07:00 ..... Light Music  
07:30 ..... Newsweek  
08:00 ..... Morning Show  
18:00 ..... News Summary  
18:05 ..... Morning Show  
11:00 ..... Pop Session  
12:00 ..... News Summary  
12:05 ..... Pop Session  
13:00 ..... News Summary  
14:00 ..... News Bulletin  
14:30 ..... Instruments  
15:30 ..... Over a Cup of Tea  
16:00 ..... Concert Hour  
16:05 ..... News Summary  
16:05 ..... Instruments  
16:30 ..... Old Favourites  
17:00 ..... Classical Show Case  
17:30 ..... Pop Session  
18:00 ..... News Summary  
18:05 ..... Sports Round-up  
18:30 ..... Arabian Nights  
19:00 ..... Newsweek  
19:30 ..... Date with a Star  
20:00 ..... Evening Show  
21:00 ..... News Summary  
21:05 ..... News Summary  
21:55 ..... News Summary  
22:00 ..... News Summary  
24:00 ..... News Headlines

**BBC WORLD SERVICE**

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Gemini To Jo'burg  
06:45 Letter from London 06:55  
Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09  
Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary  
07:30 Letterbox 07:45 Recording of the Week 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Plato to Nato 09:00 World News 09:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Nineteen Eighty Four 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Waveguide 11:25 Good Books 11:40 World Today 16:45 Not So Much a Hobby 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Plato to Nato 17:45 Music in The Age of Chivalry 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Sweet Soul Music 18:30 Geopolitics 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 Jazz Score 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Wives and Daughters 21:00 Outlook 21:39 Stock Market Report 21:45 Peaches' Choice 22:00 World News 22:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sports International 23:00 Network UK 23:15 Gemini to Jo'burg 23:30 Rock Salad 24:00 World News: The World Today 06:00 News 06:30 Watchlight Meditation 06:40 Reflections 06:45 Sports Round-up 07:15 Sweet Soul Music 07:30 Plato to Nato

**VOICE OF AMERICA**  
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour, 17:00 News 17:15 Newsline 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Special English News and Features 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English News and Features 21:00 Newsline America 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**TODAY'S EVENTS**

**EXHIBITIONS**

\* The first annual book exhibition organized by the Department of Library, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA), at Russellia Sport Club.

\* An exhibition of scientific, literary and cultural books at the University of Jordan (until Jan. 1).

\* An art exhibition by Nawal Radi Al Abdullah at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 16).

\* An art exhibition entitled "A Portrait of 19th Century Jordan" at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 3).

\* An exhibition of paintings by Egyptian artist Ahmad Shihata at the Royal Cultural Centre (Jan. 1-4).

**CULTURAL CENTRES**

Royal Cultural Centre ..... Tel. 6610267  
American Centre ..... 44371  
British Council ..... 36147-8  
French Cultural Centre ..... 37009  
Goethe Institute ..... 41993  
Soviet Cultural Centre ..... 44203  
Spanish Cultural Centre ..... 24049  
Turkish Cultural Centre ..... 39777  
Haya Arts Centre ..... 665195  
Husseini Youth City ..... 667181  
Y.W.C.A. ..... 41793  
Y.W.M.A. ..... 664251  
Amman Municipal Library ..... 36111  
University of Jordan Library ..... 843555

**MUSEUMS**

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.  
Jordan National Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.  
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a

collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munatah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30129.  
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.  
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 377691.

**SERVICE CLUBS**

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.  
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.  
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.  
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.  
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

**CHURCHES**

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.  
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, 374-40.  
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.  
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.  
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.  
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771757.  
Armenian Apostolic Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.

**PRAYER TIMES**

06:58 ..... Fajr  
06:58 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
11:38 ..... Dhuhur  
14:22 ..... Asr  
16:40 ..... Maghreb  
18:07 ..... 'Ishra

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

**AMMAN AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. 081 53250, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**

09:30 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Muscat, Bahrain (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:10 ..... Larusca, Damascus (RJ)  
10:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:40 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
10:50 ..... Cairo (MS)  
10:50 ..... Jeddah, Medina (SV)  
10:55 ..... Balgrade, Istanbul (JY)  
10:55 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
10:55 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
10:55 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
22:20 ..... Cairo (MS)  
22:30 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
00:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
01:10 ..... Baghdad (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**

06:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
08:45 ..... Beirut (MEA)  
11:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Vienna, Chicago (RJ)  
14:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
14:40 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
16:40 ..... Jeddah, Medina (SV)  
17:25 ..... Istanbul, Balgrade (JY)  
19:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Damascus, Larusca (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Doha, Muscat (RJ)  
20:00 ..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Dubai (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
22:30 ..... Doha, Muscat (RJ)  
23:30 ..... Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (IA)

**MARITIME TRAFFIC**

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:  
— Musa Fajade  
— Al Farabi  
— Draplan-G-K  
— Mircyslaw Kalinowski  
— Ask  
— Al Zahra

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

**EMERGENCIES**

Ambulance ..... 193, 775111  
Fire, fire, police ..... 199  
Blood bank ..... 775121  
Civil Defence rescue ..... 661111  
Fire headquarters ..... 22090-3  
Police rescue ..... 192, 21111, 37777  
Police headquarters ..... 39141  
Traffic police ..... 56390-1  
Electric Power Co. ..... 36381-2  
Municipal water service ..... 771125-8  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... (08) 53333

**HOSPITALS**

Hussein Hospital ..... 818131-32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 44281-4  
Akhil Maternity, J. Amman ..... 42441  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 42366  
Mallat, J. Amman ..... 36400  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 66471-4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein ..... 667158  
Al-Musharraf Hospital ..... 667232  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 665292  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 77710-3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 771111  
Army, Marka ..... 91611

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:  
Dr. A. Rahim Ajaj ..... 28306

**GENERAL**

Jordan



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Ministry re-assesses postal certificate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has agreed to equate the postal and financial studies certificate with a BA university degree for appointment purposes. Ministry of Communications Under-Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif said that this step is a big achievement in the postal sector and is in line with government efforts to develop administrative staff. Large numbers of employees will benefit from this equivalence and the move is a good motive for postal staff to develop their work and to double their efforts to serve the postal service in Jordan. Mr. Ibn Tarif added.

## Ajlouni tours Al Bashir Hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Kamel Ajlouni Sunday inspected the maternity, chest surgery and orthopedics sections at Al Bashir Hospital. Dr. Ajlouni was briefed by the doctors in charge of these sections on the services they render to patients and the minister expressed his satisfaction at the progress of work in the hospital. Dr. Ajlouni was accompanied on the visit by a number of officials from the ministry.

## Nabulsi discusses Balqa roads, loans

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 260 square metres of roads have been asphalted in Balqa Governorate at a total cost of JD 527,000. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi has said. Speaking about the loans granted by the Cities and Villages Development Bank to municipalities and village councils in Balqa Governorate, Mr. Nabulsi said that they amounted JD 2,774,569. He added that the total budget of Balqa municipalities is JD 3,512,218 and the total budget for village councils is JD 460,222.

## New transit regulations introduced

AMMAN (Petra) — The Customs Department has introduced new regulations organising the movement of transit goods across the border points in Jordan. Under the new regulations no clearing company, office or customs broker can handle transit work unless they present a bank guarantee of minimum JD 120,000 for each clearing centre.

## Vehicles in Zarqa to be checked

AMMAN (Petra) — Joint committees grouping representatives from the Licensing and Traffic Departments will embark on inspection campaigns to examine vehicles in Zarqa district. Public Security Department sources said Sunday. The two-week long campaign will cover all passenger cars, medium size vehicles and coasters. The sources added.

## Yarmouk plans information course

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University, in cooperation with Sheffield University of England, is in the process of introducing a post graduate studies course on information and libraries. Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran had discussions on the subject with the vice president of Sheffield University during his visit to the university site in Irbid.

## Universities review cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan acting president, Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra, Sunday met with the assistant director of the Arab studies centre at Georgetown university, Mr. Michael Baker. The meeting discussed strengthening ties between the university and the centre in the field of exchanging guest professors and experience in Arab studies as well as in scientific research.



Minister of Communication Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben (second left) Sunday signs an agreement with a local company to construct buildings in various parts of the country to house the ministry's switchboards and networks (Petra photo)

## Local company signs contract to construct communication buildings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications Sunday signed a JD 1,100,000 contract with a local construction company under which the company will construct 31 buildings, with a total area of 4,859 square metres, in various towns and villages in Karak Governorate, Tafleeh district and the South Jordan Valley. The new buildings will be used to accommodate sub-switchboards and microwave equipment, which is a part of the fourth Japanese loan to Jordan. The total value of this loan is JD 19 million. The Jordanian government is providing an additional JD 7 million to cover the costs of the local part of the project.

The fourth Japanese loan project includes the installation of an integrated telephone network in Karak Governorate and expanding and installing new telephone networks in Amman Governorate.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben and by the company's director general and executive director.

Dr. Zaben expressed his satisfaction that the contract was offered to a local company for implementation and said that he hoped the buildings would be completed within the 14 months period of the agreement.

## WAJ to replace meters, unify water tariffs

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) is planning to replace the traditional water metering equipment with a new volumetric type of meter in order to unify the fee collection rates from subscribers in the Kingdom, a WAJ official said Sunday.

The official said that, at present, there are two kinds of metering equipment used in houses. There is the old 'German' type, used on a large scale in Jordan, which is less affected by dirt and sand remains and also less accurate in registering the quantity of consumed water, especially if the flow average is less than 15 litres per hour. The other type is volumetric metering equipment which is known as the 'blue box'. This system is very sensitive to dirt and sand remains and more accurate in registering the volume of flowing water, especially for a flow average of more than four litres per hour.

President of the metering equipment section at the WAJ, Mr. Mohammad Rayal, earlier said that the difference in scales for consumed water between the two types are due to the operating method. The traditional type has a propeller method to measure the water consumption, which registers less than the volumetric system which is very accurate.

Mr. Rayal refused claims that volumetric metering equipment measures air volume with the water consumption, saying that

water pipes are filled for 24 hours and that there is no chance for air to enter the pipes. Mr. Rayal attributed some high water bills to several causes: fractures in the metering equipment, leaks in pipe joints, miss-reading of the meter by the collector, miss-calculating when the metering equipment is in mal-functioning, and also because of actual consumption of water disputed quantity or because the consumption was accumulating for several years.

Mr. Rayal declared that 65,000 volumetric equipment meters are currently in use in Amman after recommendations from experts from the International Development Bank. The metering equipment in Jordan meets with international specifications, he added. Mr. Rayal also said that the volumetric type of meter was approved after operation on an experimental basis and that this particular type is currently used for measuring gas volumes in Europe because of its accuracy and efficiency.

Dismissing claims of computer errors in issuing water bills, Mr. Rayal said that fees are collected in four phases through the year, once every three months, and that money can be paid to WAJ collectors or to the Housing Bank. "However, I have never heard of computer errors in this field," he said, "nevertheless, mistakes do sometimes happen due to collectors' miscalculations, such as taking fees for two phases together then simultaneously adding the last amount to the next bill, but this rarely happens," he added.

## Conference participants suggest improved teaching methods

## Islamic scholars discuss social, cultural aspects of preaching, guidance

By Olga Mikhail  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first annual conference on Islamic preaching and guidance resumed its meetings Sunday and discussed various problems facing preachers in Jordan. Participants also reviewed recommendations for the purpose of rectifying and reorganising the religious exhortation and Islamic guidance in Jordan.

His Majesty King Hussein Saturday opened the conference and delivered a speech calling on preachers in Jordan to develop their preaching methods in accordance with the new requirements of society.

In his inaugural speech, King Hussein said that preaching and guidance is a duty for all Muslims since it constitutes a major sector of our true religion and one of the requirements of its continuity. "Since God's will demanded the existence of diversity among people in knowledge, mental capabilities and temperaments, it is natural to have amongst us people who are either more or less knowledgeable about religious matters," King Hussein said.

The King added that preaching and guidance is purely a humanitarian process performed by a Muslim in accordance with the provisions and teachings of Islam in order to benefit his Muslim brothers in different Muslim societies. "The message of Islam, in the light of the new, universal system prevailing in the world, has its own requirements and needs which are based on collective organisation and qualified human resources," the King said.

King Hussein, addressing over 200 participants and Islamic scholars, said that we in Jordan, and in the lights of our requirements, could not get except a very little proportion of the merit represented in contributing to preaching and guidance through our membership in different Islamic organisations.

## Importance of dialogue

Stressing the importance of dialogue in Islam, the King explained that abandoning dialogue does not only mean fanaticism and negligence of reason, but also means the absence of the most important characteristic of the Islamic community and one of the prominent Islamic values, that of forgiveness. "Reasoning, dialogue and forgiveness are among the guarantees of modernisation, balance or centrism which Allah has described the Islamic nation with," he added.

The King also called on preachers to be aware of their mission and to help preserve the identity of their nation in isolation of differences and religious creeds and to leave aside fanaticism and accusation.

The participants and scholars from different Arab and Islamic countries discussed during Sunday's morning session, a paper entitled "Developing the Preaching and Guidance Methods and Programmes," prepared by Dr. Abdul Salam Abadi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. Dr. Mohammad Al Sartawi, assistant

professor at the Sharia College University of Jordan, Dr. Humam Abdul Rahim, assistant professor at the Sharia College University of Jordan and Dr. Ahmad Hilail, director of the Department of Preaching and Guidance at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The paper discussed the importance of developing preaching methods in Jordan according to the new requirements and needs of the society. The four scholars highlighted the necessity of implementing the rules of Sharia and acting according to Islamic law and the utilisation of modern achievements, especially in the fields of communications where, the speakers said, technological development could help the preachers in delivering the message of Islam in an influential and effective way.

The paper also reviewed the urgent need to reach and communicate with every member of the society, since building up a strong society requires taking care of every member of society.

## Problems and solutions

Part of the conference focuses on finding proper solutions to the problems facing the preaching and guidance methods in Jordan. The paper suggested many recommendations such as increasing the religious programmes about Islam in radio, television and different media, and suggested that the programmes to be presented should not only present Islam as part of history, but rather to tackle the problems facing Islam and the Islamic society nowadays. Improving teaching methods in various fields to serve in building up the 'right man and the proper society' were also suggested. It was also recommended that the mosques should play a major role in

building up the society, being as they are religious, cultural and social centres at the same time.

The recommendations suggested the establishment of a Koranic house, libraries in mosques and forming special committees to supervise the social and cultural activities in mosques. They also discussed the possibility of establishing special clinics for people living in the housing that belongs to the mosques in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Jordan Medical Association and the private sector.

Earlier Saturday and during the evening session, Dr. Ahmad Hilail presented his paper entitled "the Islamic Preaching and Guidance Movement." He pointed out the factors that affect preaching in Jordan and classified the main features of the preaching and guidance movement in Jordan.

"The preacher should have a strong personality, have a good knowledge of Arabic language, be a good symbol for people to follow, have self confidence and true belief in what he is preaching and most important he should act moderately and away from fanaticism and racialism," he said.

## Moral incentives

Dr. Hilail continued that the absence of the material and moral incentives offered by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is a main reason that leads to the preachers' frustration.

"The Department of Preaching and Guidance at the Ministry of Awqaf is trying to increase the number of preachers, especially the qualified ones and this will only be reached by increasing the incentives offered to these preachers and by improving the methods of teaching at different Sharia colleges at the universities in Jordan," Dr. Hilail said.

Dr. Hilail also stressed the need to prepare new methods in fiqh, sayings of the Prophet, commentary and Muslim faiths.

During the afternoon session the participants also discussed two papers entitled "Social problems in the Jordanian community - priorities, the need to tackle them," and "The Cultural and Educational Build up of the Preachers and the Imams of Jordanian Society."

## Arar, Hindawi discuss services, projects for Amman Governorate

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar Saturday toured Amman Governorate and held a meeting with Amman Governor Turki Hindawi during which they discussed several issues.

At the meeting Mr. Arar promised to fulfill the requests and needs of Amman residents within the available capabilities of the government. He also said that he would try to deal with their requests as soon as possible.

Mr. Hindawi emphasised the readiness of the government and the governorate authorities to

provide the citizens with water, electricity, cables and asphalted roads with the cooperation of the concerned authorities. Mr. Hindawi made this announcement during an inspection tour of Sahab sub-district during which he was briefed on the services provided to Sahab. Mr. Hindawi also heard requests for services from nearby villages.

Mr. Hindawi was accompanied on his tour by health, education, communication and municipality engineering section directors and representatives from the Water Authority of Jordan and Jordan Electricity Authority.

## Palestinians, Arabs condemn assassination of PLO leader

(Continued from page 1)

allow his brother to be buried in Hebron.

Mr. Qawasmeh was interviewed by Al Jazeera television as dozens of people were seen arriving at his home to pay a condolence call. His eyes swollen and bloodshot from tears, Mr. Qawasmeh called his brother "a sacrifice to the Palestinian people."

Businesses and stores in Hebron, Mr. Qawasmeh's hometown, were closed Sunday to protest against the PLO official's assassination.

Elders and leaders of Palestinian refugees living in Jordan expressed shock and grief at the death of Mr. Qawasmeh and said "this dastardly act has achieved what the Zionists have so far been unable to achieve."

Egypt expressed "deep sorrow" for the assassination of Mr. Qawasmeh, and condemned "this treacherous terrorist act."

A Foreign Ministry statement referred to Mr. Qawasmeh as "one of the leaders of the Palestinian battle who stood bravely against all attempts to break the free Palestinian voice."

"Egypt condemns this treacherous terrorist act and is sure the Palestinian people will continue strongly their struggle for independence of the Palestinian decision," the statement said.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid also sent a condolence message to Chairman Arafat and to Mr. Qawasmeh's family.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali described the murder of Mr. Qawasmeh as a "crime committed against a man with an excellent record of nationalism, courage and sacrifice for his homeland and the national rights of the Palestinians."

South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad said the assassination of Mr. Qawasmeh "is a criminal act which does not serve anybody other than the Zionist enemy and the world's imperialists."

Mr. Nasser Mohammad told reporters after visiting the PLO office in Aden to convey his condolences to Mr. Arafat who was in the South Yemeni capital Saturday night: "I am confident that this crime will not affect the Palestinian struggle and march, and the unity and cohesion of the Palestinian liberation movement in

achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Kuwaiti heir-apparent and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'ad Abdullah Al Sabah expressed his deep regret over the assassination of Mr. Qawasmeh and sent a cable of condolences to Mr. Arafat.

In his cable, Sheikh Sa'ad paid tribute to Mr. Qawasmeh's "courageous stand in the face of the Israeli enemy and his untiring work to serve the Palestinian cause, and his dedicated work towards unifying Palestinian and Arab efforts."

The Kuwaiti foreign and information ministers also sent similar cables to Mr. Arafat, expressing their regret and grief at the assassination of Mr. Qawasmeh and denouncing "this ghastly crime."

Kuwaiti newspapers denounced the killing of Mr. Qawasmeh and described it as a "crime serving the goals of the Israeli enemy."

The Qatari media condemned the assassination and described it as an "evil terrorist act."

In the United Arab Emirates, the media denounced the killing and said it was "a link in a series of efforts aimed at shattering the Palestinian unity."

## Truck owners express pessimism over land transport situation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The current world economic recession is affecting Jordan among other states in the Middle East region, but probably land transport is one of the sectors taking most of the brunt. At present hundreds of lorries, trailers and refrigerated trucks are at a standstill in Jordan and their drivers are idle and worried about their future.

A survey and interviews, conducted by the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, with a number of truck owners and drivers revealed more details about this grim situation. According to the survey, the number of registered vehicles stood at 8,341 at the end of 1983 and their owners, who used to make good profits from them in the 1970s, now consider them as a burden because of the accumulating debts on loans they obtained to buy the vehicles.

Recession could not be the only reason for the current situation though it may be the main one. Over the past 10 years, the land transport sector in Jordan was immensely developed and hun-

dreds of trucks were to be seen on main roads, busily transporting all kinds of goods or passing in transit from and to Aqaba into other neighbouring countries.

## Too many trucks

The land transport boom which reached its peak between 1979 and 1982 caused Jordan to play a leading role in forwarding goods and prompted many people to purchase trucks to enter this lucrative business. Therefore, the large number of trucks has contributed to the bad business that the truck-owners are suffering from.

In 1979 the total volume of imported goods through Aqaba amounted to 2.1 million tonnes. In 1982 goods carried in transit amounted to three million tonnes and in 1983, the registered figures of imported goods via Aqaba amounted to 3.6 million tonnes while the volume of goods in transit stood at 4.1 million tonnes. This means that all kinds of trucks have had a share in the business and all realised handsome profits.

## Vehicle costs

In addition to individuals see-

king to own trucks, public and private transport companies entered the race, with some of them eventually owning as many as 400 vehicles. As the demand for the trucks grew, their prices also soared to unprecedented levels. A refrigerated truck which used to cost JD 28,000 was sold for JD 50,000 and a trailer which used to cost JD 22,000 had to be bought for JD 40,000.

Also there appeared a new generation of merchants who started importing used trucks from West Germany to sell them to drivers and to other citizens willing to pay exorbitant prices. As the boom continued, the new investors and drivers were anxious to get bank loans to help them pay for the new vehicles. Some of the truck drivers risked signing monthly bills of JD 1,500 because they were sure it would be easy enough to pay back due to the promising market at that time and the good business that earned fortunes for many others. According to the survey, monthly bank bills of JD 500 are increasingly hard to pay and many drivers and truck owners fail to pay in time.

Also according to the survey the

volume of goods going in and out of Jordan in transit to other countries and that of goods being exported or imported via Aqaba have considerably dropped. This decline caused a decrease in the demand for truck services which in turn meant a drop in income and consequently a failure to pay back the loans and to meet other financial commitments on the part of the owners.

## Idle trucks

Since the beginning of 1984 there has been a noticeable idleness of trucks which prompted some owners to convert their vehicles into tankers to carry fuel oil. This conversion process costs JD 2,000, but many owners think that it is still better than leaving the trucks idle all the time and leaving the drivers unable to pay back their loans.

Refrigerated trucks, however, remain relatively active because they are still needed in summer to transport fruits and vegetables from Turkey to Arab Gulf states, and from the Jordan Valley in winter to the same destinations.

The trucks owned by the public sector, in which the government has 50 per cent capital, continue to operate because priority in transporting goods is given to them. These trucks are mostly operated by the Ministry of Supply to transport food supplies and other materials from Aqaba to the warehouses in Amman, and others are being employed to carry goods from Jordan to other Arab states in implementation of previously concluded agreements between governments.

The main public transport companies that operate shipments by land are the Syrian-Jordanian Overland Transport Corporation and the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company which made nearly 70,000 trips within Jordan and 96,000 between Jordan and neighbouring states in 1983 carrying between them 3.1 million tonnes of goods in various directions.

The newspaper conducted interviews with drivers and owners of trucks in Amman and Aqaba and toured areas where the trucks are

parked in the two cities. One of the drivers, in Aqaba, Mohammad Salim Mohammad, said that he has been driving trucks for the past 12 years but this year, had been the worst ever. The volume of work at the port has dropped considerably compared with previous years because there has been a great increase in the number of trucks waiting in the line to be loaded, he said.

Another driver, Mohamoud Nabulsi, said that he used to charge JD 700 to JD 800 for transporting a full load of 40 to 50 tonnes of goods from Aqaba to Baghdad, but now the rate has dropped to JD 500. He added that it also takes a long time for a driver in line to have his turn due to the great number of trucks waiting to be loaded in Aqaba.

Mahmoud Abdul Ra'ouf Hamdan said that the traffic department has fixed the ceiling of the volume of load for each truck in a bid to reduce the axial weight on roads. But, the less the load of trucks, the less the charge will be and therefore less profit, especially in transporting goods over long distances. In fact, he added, some drivers feel that they make no money at all due to the new arrangements and they incur many other expenses while waiting for their loads in different cities.

Thirty three-year old Yusuf Oweid said that a truck has many expenses and its owner has to pay tax, fees for registration, annual licence fees, and other fees. A driver is also liable to pay fines and extra fees at border posts and has to buy spare parts and replacements for the vehicle from time to time, Mr. Oweid said.

Also, the presence of a large number of trucks owned by the public sector and by citizens from neighbouring states makes it difficult for the local drivers to get sufficient trips and consignments to yield good profits that would enable them to meet their commitments, he said. In addition, the public sector trucks are allowed up to 60 tonnes in one load while those of the private sector are only allowed 30 tonnes each, Mr. Oweid said.



Trucks, tankers, trailers and refrigerated lorries wait in line at Aqaba Port. (J.T. file photo)



# Jordan Times

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## Strength not in terror

PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat strongly indicated, upon arrival in Amman at dawn Sunday, that pro-Syrian Palestinian elements might be behind the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Faid Al Qawasmeh.

Given the hostility and threats that Syria has been demonstrating towards Mr. Arafat and his supporters for the last year and a half, the PLO leader's suspicions can only be too well understood. But one should not exclude the possibility that the real agents of Zionism have decided to physically eliminate this Palestinian leader after the Israeli failure to silence his voice which rose high in defence of his people's rights.

Yet, if Mr. Qawasmeh was killed by Zionist agents, and even though we strongly believe that gunning down an unarmed man is a pure act of cowardice, it would not be the first act of its kind on their part; Israeli terror squads have been using all methods to liquidate the Palestinian cause. Even the Israeli army itself went up all the way to Beirut to help in this unholy crusade.

But if Mr. Arafat's doubts proved to be right, and unfortunately there is a good chance that they are, Mr. Qawasmeh's death would have signalled a dangerous turning point in the course of inter-Palestinian differences and the Palestinian-Syrian conflict. For if the anti-Arafat camp has really decided to achieve its goals through waging a war of assassinations against the PLO leadership, the only anticipated results of such acts would only lead to the death of the democratic dialogue among the Palestinian groups and consequently the weakening of the PLO. If not its self-destruction.

We are optimistic that matters would not reach such tragic ends because the PLO leadership has always demonstrated an ability to practice a high amount of self-control and consequently would refuse to be dragged into a blood bath of assassinations that will have disastrous effects on the Palestinian cause. But some hard work has to be done there to support our optimism.

At this sad point of the history of the Palestinian struggle, the truly independent Palestinian groups have to pursue the example set by Qawasmeh, who strongly believed in the strength of dialogue as a means of resolving political differences, and convert all the anger and frustration into will and strength to face the main enemy on the other side of the river. Those who understand only the language of force, however, should know that their actions will not pass unpunished, under any circumstances.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Crime shall pay

THOSE WHO carried out the despicable crime which took the life of Faid Qawasmeh Saturday are mistaken if they think for one moment that they could obstruct the independent Palestinian will or contain it by terrorism. This will have proved its ability to bypass obstacles, disregarding threats when it held the Palestine National Council in its scheduled place and time.

Those who imagine that the criminal weapon they carry can place a stick in the wheel of the Jordanian-Palestinian march are mistaken. They are even more and more mistaken if they imagine that the culprits can escape a just punishment.

Honest and noble people alone know the use of weapon which should not be directed at cowardly assassination, and only noble people do not resolve to crime to impose an opinion or a trend. The struggling Arab people see in the Qawasmeh assassination a poisoned arrow that they despise without fear and as these people condemn the culprits, they believe deep in their souls in the invulnerability of Palestinian will and its capability of resuming its march despite all conspiracies. The cowardly hands thrust to harm Palestinian leadership will be cut and everyone knows that Jordan means what it says.

The Zionist plan to liquidate Palestinian leadership is no secret to anyone anymore... And if a group of cowards have made themselves a tool to serve this plan some way or other, its destiny will not be better than that of any traitor of his nation.

### Al Dustour: A distinguished social role

THE SPEECH with which His Majesty King Hussein inaugurated the First Annual Conference for Islamic preaching and guidance included a summary of the Muslim preacher's role in a modern society and an accurate description of how a preacher should perform his duties to reform society at a time of deterioration, and confusion of values.

Perhaps the King's concern manifested by him personally inaugurating this conference is a manifestation of the Jordanian government's real interest in preaching and guidance mission and an acknowledgement of its important role in directing people and influencing their concepts and behaviour.

The preaching mission is a highly-esteemable humanitarian work and those who handle this mission are following the path of prophets and reformers. Therefore, whoever takes this mission should follow their steps and teachings to take communities from darkness to the light of love, forgiveness and good advice.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Honourable son of a brave people

WITH AGONY and bitterness, but with high esteem, the Jordanian-Palestinian family mourns Faid Qawasmeh as one of its best men and as a Palestinian fighter whose life stood for tireless effort in the service of the cause of Palestine and defence of the rights of its people. When Hebron chose him as its representative under Israeli occupation, the man reflected, by his deeds, the pulse of the city and its dignity. Hence was his uprooting from his land. There was a consensus to choose Qawasmeh to be their representative at their highest body of the Palestinian leadership under occupation an indication of the man's sincere affiliation and dedication to the principles of his nation and the cause of his people.

The death of Qawasmeh at cowardly hands hired by conspirers on the Palestinian work and its leadership comes to close a cycle of conspiracy which started by the Israeli uprooting of people from their lands to evacuate the arena for those with evil intentions meeting with Israel on the same goals.

Those who conspire today to liquidate the leadership of their people are aware of the bigger conspiracy aimed at liquidating their people, but the nation which offered thousands for sacrifice will not retreat at the death of one of its leaders.

The assassination of innocent people is a curse upon all parties that stand behind it and it prompts us to stand in the face of conspiracy.

# War helps the Mullahs tighten grip on Iranians

By Tareq Masarweh

AS THE 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) wound up its five days of talks in Sana'a, the Islamic world heard an Iranian statement to the effect that Tehran would not stop the Iran-Iraq war and would go on fighting until the Iraqi government is overthrown.

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Velayati issued the statement despite the conference's resolutions and recommendations on the Gulf War, well-assured that the conference would end, as it had always done, with calls to both Iraq and Iran to stop the war and to respond favourably to mediation efforts by Islamic peace missions. The Iranian minister was also positive of an Arab Nation's impressive attitude towards this conflict.

The Iranian condition for ending the war — an overthrow

of the "Iraqi regime" by force — can by no means be considered a condition for peace, but rather an open declaration of a long war that cannot end until, in Tehran's view, that Iraqi people gave up their freedom and their right to self-determination. This is an impossible condition as is the prospect of Iran ever storming Baghdad and overthrowing the Iraqi government.

Tehran has always justified its condition for a change of government in Baghdad in order to end the war — by claiming that the Iraqis started it, and, therefore, they have to pay the price. Such a justification cannot win Tehran any victory, neither can the continuation of the conflict achieve that. Iraq has often declared its willingness to accept a neutral enquiry com-

mission to investigate the cause of the war, but we never heard Tehran accepting such a proposed commission.

It has become clear now that the Iranians have an obvious interest in the perpetuation of the Gulf war whether they win it or not, especially now that this war has become static, as Iraq had taken a defensive stand and decided to confine its war operations to blockading Kharg Island.

The Tehran regime has no interest in ending the war because it is this war and not the revolution which brought the Mullahs to power. The continuation of this war is the only means for the Mullahs to retain power and it is the only means for crushing all other political forces inside Iran. The war is the only means for the Persians to subdue the four ethnic nat-

ions that together form the state of Iran. Understanding the relationship between Persia and the provincial peoples of Baluchistan, Azerbaijan, Kurdistan and Arabistan, and understanding the different classes and power struggle within Iran which had been instrumental in the formation of the regime would make it easy for many observers to point out the reason for Iran's present stand and its refusal to stop the war with Iraq after all these years of loss and destruction.

Reviewing the names of those who are at the helm of power in Iran at present, one can see that they are of people who seized power through internal rivalry and struggle and had no hand at all in the revolution against the Shah. Ever since the start of the war there has been a bloody sequence of liquidation of various

opposition groups as well as former presidents, prime ministers, ministers and army commanders, and the power struggle is still active inside Iran and abroad. Therefore, the war is not expected to end because the regime in Tehran might finally realise the futility of its military strength.

Moreover, Iraq is not concerned at present with re-occupying Arabistan or seizing Iran's oil-rich region despite the fact that it is better armed and far stronger in the battlefield. Iran will, as expected, continue to mass troops every six months or so to launch a fresh offensive only to be repelled. It has been in the habit of doing that shortly before winter when the battleground is normally swampy and boggy

and before summer when it is simmering hot. The battlefield will therefore remain static all the year round.

The war will drag on and on until the regime in Tehran has become convinced that it has finally liquidated all the internal opposition, and has subjugated all the ethnic minorities under its rule. Only then will Iran accept a suggestion for the demarcation of the international borders with Iraq as was the case in 1913 when it reached agreement with the Ottoman Empire on the present border lines, an agreement which ensured for the Shah in Tehran supreme control over domestic affairs and for the Persian nation almost total control over the destinies of the minorities and ethnic groups within the empire.

# Sino-Soviet thaw comes ahead of Gromyko-Shultz talks

By Jeremy Clift

Reuter

PEKING — The Soviet Union has moved to thaw its icy relations with China before the Geneva talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

A batch of trade and economic agreements just signed by Soviet First Deputy Premier Ivan Arkhipov during the highest-ranking visit to China by a Kremlin leader in 15 years has underlined the stand-off between the estranged Communist giants need not be permanent.

Western and Asian diplomats said big political differences remain between the former allies who became ideological foes in the 1960s, with the antagonism spilling over into border fighting in 1969.

But Mr. Arkhipov, who ended his nine-day visit Saturday, has

done a lot to revive memories of the period of friendship in the 1950s, when the Moscow and Peking envisaged marching hand in hand towards world socialism.

The two sides have realised they still have a lot to offer each other, despite their growing differences in political perspective and Soviet carping about Chinese economic reforms.

For Moscow, the accords with Peking have given it a diplomatic boost just before the Jan. 7-8 Shultz-Gromyko meeting on arms control and space weapons.

They have underlined that China, even though it is looking more towards the West and particularly the United States as a supplier of technology and potentially of weapons, is not automatically opposed to the Soviet Union.

China needs Soviet technology and experts to help upgrade factories built by the Russians in the

1950s. It still has a large number of Russian speakers and technicians of its own who were trained in the Soviet Union and are used to Soviet methods.

In contrast, despite the opening to the West and the increasing number of students in the United States, it has a severe shortage of English and Japanese speakers. China is still learning how to adapt Western management methods to its own factories and is at home with Soviet-style planning.

In the eyes of the Kremlin, by offering better relations to Peking the Soviet Union may hope to limit China's drift towards the West and remove it as a possible "card" to be played by Washington.

Moscow has been worried by the direction of China's foreign policy.

While Peking says it will never align itself with either of the superpowers and has rejected a strategic relationship with Washington, it is gradually developing closer military links with the United States.

There have been a succession of military visits by leaders of both countries, including a tour of U.S. military installations and arms factories by Chinese Defence Minister Zhang Aiping in the summer.

Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang has said U.S. warships will be allowed to make a ceremonial call at a Chinese port next year for the first time since the Communist takeover in 1949.

General John Vessey, head of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff is due to visit Peking, probably shortly after the Shultz-Gromyko meeting.

Top leader Deng Xiaoping has stressed that China needs peace along its borders to concentrate on its far-reaching industrial modernisation programme. Mr. Deng's objective is to qua-

druple output and achieve a per capita annual income of \$800 by the year 2000, compared with around \$250 per head for China's one billion population today.

But he has remained intransigent in his demand that the Soviet Union must remove what he calls the "three obstacles" before better political relations can be achieved.

Mr. Deng has said the Soviet Union must reduce its troops and missiles along China's border, withdraw from Afghanistan and end its support for Vietnam's presence in Kampuchea as preconditions for improved political ties.

Moscow regards the conditions as unacceptable and cancelled a trip by Mr. Arkhipov scheduled for last May in a move interpreted by diplomats as expressing Soviet anger over President Reagan's China tour that April and recent clashes along the Sino-

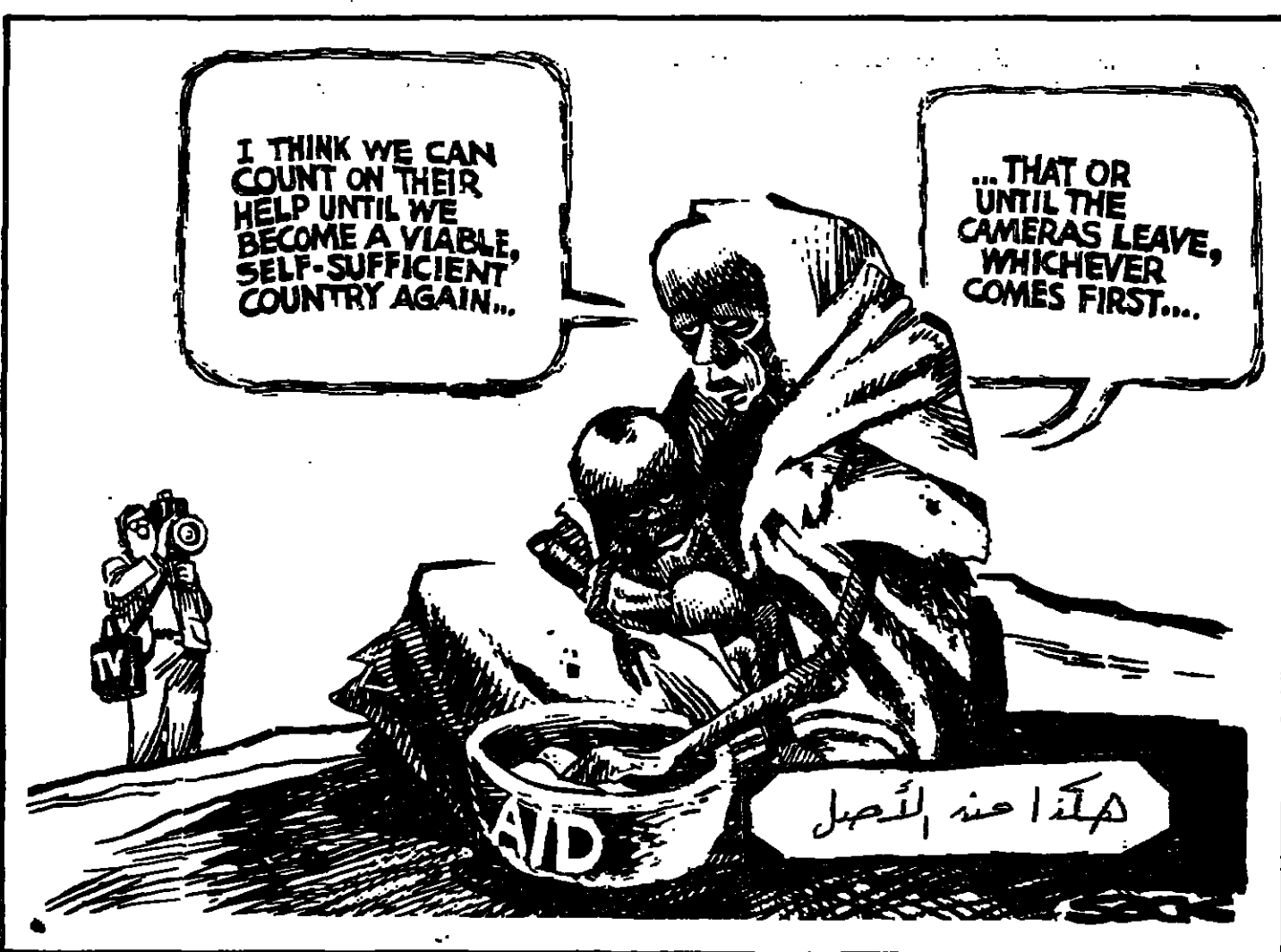
Vietnamese border. Mr. Arkhipov has now breathed new life into the relationship, setting a course for steady growth in economic relations.

As they left Peking Saturday, Soviet officials announced a further boost in trade planned for 1985, from \$1.4 billion already announced to 1.8 billion.

They have agreed to sign a 1986-90 trade pact in the first half of 1985 and also to set up a joint commission to oversee their improving economic relations.

While deep suspicions remain, it means that the powerful neighbours are developing a vested interest in better ties and a reduction of friction.

Though China is still a threat to the Soviet Union in strategic terms, Mr. Gromyko will be better able to face Mr. Shultz in Geneva without having to look over his shoulder at Peking.



# Victory from sympathy, Hindu backlash, youthful image and divided opposition

By Victoria Graham

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's landslide victory resulted from a sympathy vote, a Hindu backlash, better financing, an image of youth and promise, and because of a fragmented, squabbling opposition.

Mr. Gandhi, 40, a political ingenu with less than four years' experience, led the governing Congress Party to an unprecedented triumph that reduced the opposition to a shambles and established virtual one party rule in parliament.

It was a powerful, emotional, nonintellectual campaign dominated by the dutiful dynastic son, rising above personal grief to complete his mother's sacred, unfinished tasks.

Mr. Gandhi indirectly appealed to a "backlash" vote of Hindu, outraged by the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by Sikhs and the murders of Hindus by Sikh terrorists.

He dwelled on the slaying of the "immortal mother", said India was imperiled and only the Congress Party "stands between the country and chaos."

Most political commentators said it was a sterile campaign without real issue or debate about problems like poverty. Mr. Gandhi broke no new ground, promised no major changes but vowed to continue his mother's policies.

While the opposition decried the idea of dynasty in a democracy, Mr. Gandhi emphasised its necessity and a nation once ruled by maharajas and princes believed him.

In keeping with his modern "Mr. Clean" image, he promised to weed out rampant corruption and establish honest, efficient government, setting a high standard for public life. Many found his idealism appealing, and his task daunting.

Mr. Gandhi campaigned on a theme opponents called a red her-

ring, that India's unity was jeopardised by internal and external forces, referring to Sikh separatists and terrorists.

He warned that the opposition, from "Marxists" to right-wing Hindus, was unpatriotic, even subversive.

The voters believed him. His youth and relative inexperience were assets, not liabilities. About 75 per cent of the Indian electorate is under 40 and 65 per cent are illiterate.

Many voters said they liked the former airline pilot and were disillusioned with the divided opposition parties, the same old faces without new ideas. For many the opposition offered no credible alternative.

Ram Jethmalani, vice president of the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said a major cause of defeat was the fact that the opposition had no single leader or rallying figure.

"The people wanted to know

who would become the prime minister if we had won and we had no answer," he said.

With the death of Mrs. Gandhi the opposition was deprived of its most potent, if negative, issue: "Defeat the empress." They were unable to agree on fielding single candidates to oppose Congress and avoid splitting the vote. They failed to devise a common strategy.

Mr. Gandhi capitalised on their rivalries, saying a fractured opposition would fracture the country. He reminded voters of the 1977 to 1979 period when the Janata (people's) Party was in power, a rule marked by infighting, inefficiency and lack of popular confidence. Mrs. Gandhi was swept back to power with the slogan, "a government that works."

A Congress Party advertisement asked: "Are you ready for the same farce?" with another opposition government.

# Brazil economy 'better' as election approaches

By Richard Waddington

Reuter

SAO PAULO — Brazil, top of the world's financial sick-list until recently, is showing a return to economic vigour as it approaches its first civilian government in 20 years.

As the armed forces prepare to hand over power next month, the economy has begun to perform impressively again after three years of recession and rising unemployment.

Ministers expect economic output to have grown this year by four per cent, a rate both government officials and private economists expect to be at least maintained in 1985.

Brazil's gross domestic product expanded by an average of 8.6 per cent a year in the 10 years to 1980, before contracting by 1.6 per cent in 1981, rebounding slightly to grow by 0.9 per cent in 1982 and shrinking by 3.2 per cent in 1983.

"The turnaround in Brazil's economic fortunes has been spectacular," one U.S. banker said. "Even the country's \$100-billion foreign debt, the largest in the 'Third World,' no longer provokes the same anxiety as it did a year ago."

Brazil is negotiating a long-term rescheduling deal along the lines of an agreement reached with Mexico this year.

The sealing of the deal may be delayed until after the presidential election on Jan. 15 but banking sources say Brazil will certainly get a multi-year rescheduling with softer terms.

At the same time, international interest rates have begun to fall, easing the burden of debt financing.

The Central Bank had calculated Brazil's interest bill for next year at \$12 billion but recent declines could lower this to around \$10.5 billion if current interest levels are maintained, the sources said.

"The debt problem has not been resolved but at least it is under control," one banker commented.

The revival of the Brazilian economy during 1984 took both economists and the government by surprise as most early forecasts were for zero or little growth.

"We did not expect the economic recovery in the United States to be so great," said economist Paul Singer of the University of Sao Paulo.

The upswing in the U.S. market, fuelled by a 25 per cent rise in the country's stock market helped it to a turnaround of around \$13 billion this year, according to official calculations.

Although exports are not expected to rise as strongly in 1985, there are sufficient signs of revival in the domestic economy to guarantee that output will continue to grow at around this year's rate, according to Tito Riff of the independent Gertulio Vargas research foundation.

This year's four per cent rise in output meant that the growth in the economy outpaced the increase in population, now around 130 million and rising by an average of 2.5 per cent a year, for the first time since 1980.

Per capita output fell by four per cent, 1.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent in 1981, 1982 and 1983 respectively.

The turnaround should help ease the transition to civilian government, banking sources said. Opposition candidate and former Prime Minister Tancredino Neves, 74, looks likely to win next month's vote after putting together an alliance of opposition parties and dissidents from the ruling Social Democratic Party (PSD).

The election of an opposition candidate would almost certainly generate powerful pressure for real wage rises after years of government-imposed restraint and for faster economic growth to boost employment, the banking sources said.

The number of manufacturing jobs in the state of Sao Paulo, responsible for some 60 per cent of Brazil's output, grew by 100,000 in 1984, according to figures from the state's Federation of Industries (FIESP).

But industry is still employing 350,000 people fewer than before the recession began in 1981, FIESP adds.

Official figures put unemployment in Sao Paulo at 6.4 per cent. The inter-union research body Diesse estimates it at around 15 per cent.

A recent survey showed that people earning up to three times the minimum wage of \$55 a month — the vast majority of Brazilians — need to spend 70 per cent of their income on food.

Any move to boost real wages significantly could stoke inflation already running at over 200 per cent, said economist Roberto Macedo of the University of Sao Paulo.

Although he has called for economic growth and an attack on inflation, Neves has not detailed his economic programme. One proposal, for a pact between labour, employers and the government, has received scant support from left-wing unions in Sao Paulo.

Cartworker unions in Sao Paulo staged a successful strike over Christmas bonuses this month which gave warning of their industrial power.





# Israel is systematically suffocating Gazan economy

The people of Gaza have little opportunity of making their views known to the outside world. Journalists seldom go there. Gazans feel isolated and excluded from the political stage, yet they comprise over one third of the Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories. Paul Cossali and Clive Robson are currently writing a book based on extensive interviews with a cross-section of Gazans.

THE REFUGEES first came to Gaza with nothing, and Gaza had little to offer them by way of livelihood. Almost as soon as the initial chaos of finding a place to live in had subsided, our workforce, both skilled and unskilled, began to drain away to the Gulf states. They earned comparatively good money in the oil-producing countries and most people in Gaza lived on their remitted wages. But strict Egyptian currency controls meant that for the most part the money couldn't be sent directly.

So began a circle of investment: money would be sent to banks in Beirut. Gazan merchants would then travel to Lebanon to buy a wide assortment of luxury items. Mostly consumer goods like radios, clothes, perfume and household goods generally; these were then brought to Gaza, which was declared a sort of free trade area by the Egyptians to stimulate the local economy. The market here was stuffed with all sorts of things, attracting Egyptians by the thousands to shop for goods which were unknown in Cairo in the austere days of the Nasser regime.

There wasn't much for the Gazan merchants to invest their new found wealth in except the citrus groves, which by the early 60s had grown from 6,000 to 70,000 dunums. The Egyptians helped this industry to expand with loans, technical assistance, reduced tariffs and so on, and in a few years nearly half the Gazan workforce was dependent on it as irrigation workers, drivers, mechanics and pickers. The fruit was exported mostly to Eastern bloc countries, in particular the Soviet Union, whose markets had opened up dramatically after Nasser's move away from the West in 1953. These importers often couldn't

it's done nothing now for three years and in fact has proved to be just another obstacle to our marketing efforts. We simply can't sell our oranges. Israeli citrus growers can stand a few lean years because of the government subsidies they receive — \$70m last year — but there's no such help for us. Yet farmers here are reluctant to change.

**We have to start again from scratch with a completely new strategy.**

It takes about 11 years before a citrus tree reaches peak production, and it's hard, too, emotionally to go and cut your trees down, especially when that's what the Israelis recommend. So people hold out, hoping things will get better. But they won't, things will get worse. When Spain and Portugal join the EEC, the Israeli citrus industry is going to be hit hard and one thing is sure — they won't dump their oranges and watch ours go sailing across the bridges to Jordan. Our citrus union, which in the past pooled resources and forged markets, is powerless at this level.

The Israelis told us to switch to vegetables — cucumbers, subergines and so on — and many did. But that was a non-starter. We over-produced for our own market and are undercut anyway by the Israelis because of the subsidies their farmers receive. So now we're left with fields of rotting cucumbers, whose market value is less than the cost of picking and transporting them. Recently there was an EEC initiative to buy vegetables from Gaza, but the whole plan was hijacked by Agrexco, the Israeli vegetables marketing monopoly, which declared that all produce had to be sold through them and they would decide how much to pay the farmers. The price of land in Gaza has now fallen from 25,000 Jordanian dinars to about 4,500 per dunum.

So what are we left with? Citrus is finished, vegetables are a non-starter and our dependence on black labour in Israel and on Gulf remittances is increasing. We have no control over our own marketing and we're heavily burdened with taxes, restrictions, customs, permits and I don't know what. Look at our water problem. Gaza has plenty of water but the Israelis made us put meters on all our pumps, just to prevent over salination, they said in all innocence. Then came the restrictions on the amount pumped as the settlements drilled deeper and deeper wells, pumping 24 hours a day. Take a look now around the perimeter of the Strip. There is a chain of deep wells with very powerful pumps just inside the Green Line pumping water day and night to Israeli farms. Their official line is still that "we aren't taking any water from Gaza".

per cent of his workforce. And that was after the messenger had taken his share of the cash, which was probably half. Is that "steadfastness" in the face of the occupation? Is it "steadfastness" to pour money into our Seven-Up Bottling Company? An American product put into Israeli cans by cheap Gazan labour, cans which

**The capitalist mode of production Israel wants to suck us into is a disaster for us.**

then litter our streets in thousands. Joint Fund money is being wasted on enterprises that can't succeed; the part of it, that isn't spent on building villas and buying fast cars for "the boys".

So, as I said, we have to start again from scratch. We have to look at what we've got and use it. We've got a big internal market and we've got the workforce. This is what our economy has to exploit, by producing labour intensive products to be consumed locally and on a small enough scale to avoid posing a threat to the Israeli monopolies — initially at least. I'm proposing that we create a whole range of cottage industries, things which can be made in people's homes using our few natural resources: fruit, vegetables, meat, pottery and dairy produce. For example, someone in Beach Camp buys two cows and with their milk makes enough cheese and yoghurt to supply ten neighbouring families. The someone in Deir al-Balah pickles cucumbers in the tins that we now throw away, but on a very small scale only, just enough perhaps for family and immediate neighbours. Others could construct old-style wooden looms and work at home making rugs and clothes to be sold or exchanged locally. Making marmalade is another possibility: hundreds of little bottling plants in people's back yards. Instead of selling the poor quality oranges to the Israeli juice company for a pittance, make a small press from a

## Randa Habib's Corner

### Could this be art?

FOR ME, noisy evenings out, atmospheres overheated with action, ornamented with a vicious air polluted with too much smoke from cigarettes, cigars and pipes... it irritates me.

I feel uncomfortable, retreated in my corner, incapable of integrating myself into the atmosphere. Estranged with what is going on around, I am satisfied with watching, and sometimes believe me, the show is most astonishing — not that the singers, dancers or other vague "artists" are worth it. Most of them carry nothing from the art but its name and using all the artifice they have to attract the attention and excite the floor. The voice? It is powerful without being musical, but who cares...

Lavish exposing dresses, dirty remarks, few winks here and there and the floor is wild with excitement. Who are those "artists" with unknown names who are crowned as stars in Amman? Their presenters affirm they are "the greatest nightingales" of our modern times and "creators of art." This presenter I tell you about has reached a stage the other night to ask the audience to wish the "singer" long life. And to gain more the approval of the audience, a new tactic was applied: They started calling the names of persons present, welcoming them and their guests to the party, and here comes the role of the audience to try attract the attention of "singers" to their presence so as to be named.

Then, when the heat has already reached a climax, green and red money bills are thrown under the feet of the "star." I have been told that one evening, a man made a necklace of JD 20 bills and decorated the singer.

In my corner where I sat, I wondered what went in the heads of these people. All I can say is that: I do firmly believe in fine art and songs and good music... but not vulgarity.

## Shops closing down as coal strike drives on

By Brian Cathcart

SEAHAM, England — It was a week just like most others in Britain's marathon coal strike, with no peace talks and no breakthroughs, but for Lilian Young it was one week too many.

After more days of pitifully slow trade she closed her drinks shop this month for the last time and joined a growing number of people driven out of business by the dispute.

The strike since March by two-thirds of the 189,000 miners has split the country and led to violence, hardship and bitterness. But while the headlines chart the politics of the dispute, shopkeepers and small business owners like Lilian Young are quietly shutting down, innocent and almost unnoticed victims of the prolonged deadlock.

Nobody is counting them but the evidence of boarded-up shopfronts in Seaham, a town in the northeastern coalfield of Durham, suggests the tally must be high.

Like many another community in the scattered coalfields, Seaham depends on its mines for employment and money.

The coal industry employs 2,000 of the town's 22,000 people and hundreds more serve the three mines in one way or another. There is nothing else nearly as big. Indeed for many there is nothing at all. The jobless rate is 18 per cent, well above the national average.

In a normal week the mining payroll in the town is 400,000 sterling (\$470,000), which not only keeps the miners and their families but also flows through the local retail trade like lifeblood.

That flow dried up suddenly when the strike began. A miner walked out in a bid to force the state coal board to withdraw plans to close 20 mines it says are uneconomic.

The miners and their families are now living on welfare handouts and their action has thrown many others out of work.

Down at Seaham docks, for example, where coal usually accounts for a third of all business, 30 men have been laid off.

A local trucking firm whose sole contract is with the state coal board has had no work at all since March and all 34 drivers and depot staff have been made redundant.

No one knows how many people have been made idle in this way, but the town council has mounted an inquiry to find out. One official guessed that more than half of Seaham's breadwinners could be affected.

For shopkeepers depending on their money, the impact has been disastrous. "It has cut very deep," said a council spokesman. "A lot of small businesses have already closed and plenty more are in a very critical state. Anything which is in any way marginal has been hit particularly badly," he said.

Takings at Lilian Young's small corner shop, five minutes' walk from Seaham colliery, fell by three-quarters. By September she was using her savings to stay open.

When she could no longer afford to stock her shelves with even a minimum of beers, spirits and soft drinks she decided to close. But her troubles did not end there.

Her efforts to sell the shop, which cost her all her savings seven years ago, were hampered because banks are reluctant to back the purchase of such a strike-hit business, she says.

"It's very worrying and I get very depressed. I just don't know what to do," she said.

A nearby hardware shop closed two months ago and Nancy Foster fears her grocery shop may soon go the same way.

Most of her shelves are bare. She stocks only a quarter of the goods she used to and she has turned off and emptied one of her refrigerated display cabinets. Weekly takings are half their old level, not enough to cover costs.

Like Lilian Young, she has spent all her savings in the effort to survive.

"If they don't solve the strike early in the new year, I will probably go out of business," she says.

# UNRWA helps shelterless Ethiopians with blankets

A MAJOR people to people initiative is providing hundreds of thousands of blankets from countries half a world away to destitute and shelterless Ethiopians, clustered around Ethiopia's relief camps. Half a million people now are gathered around these camps many of them at 6,000-7,000 feet altitudes with night temperatures frequently sinking below freezing point. It is estimated that a further 500,000 people are travelling on foot trying to reach these camps.

In the past weeks, donations from the public charitable organisations, companies and governments in Canada, Denmark, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands and the United States have resulted in the sending of at least 250,000 blankets in response to urgent needs identified by the Ethiopian government. First hand testimony of these needs was provided by Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) James P. Grant after he had visited some of the relief camps. He said the scale and intensity of the suffering in some of the camps was without parallel in his experience and that blankets were becoming as important as food in sustaining life among the most vulnerable camp dwellers.

"Most of these people did not have enough clothes to cover their

bodies. They would crouch in gulches or scrape small depressions in the ground striving for any protection from the cold of the night. Pneumonia and respiratory ailments are a massive problem in these situations and malnourished children are particularly susceptible. The cold is bad enough for a well-nourished person to the body of a malnourished child it is devastating," he said.

He described Mile Camp in Wollo Province where 500-600 families, some 3,000 people, camped under thornbushes with no more than pieces of cloth stretched over the bushes each of which sheltered perhaps three families. "As night fell the racking coughs, the sound of respiratory disease, began to rise from each bush... a kind of awful chorus which went on and on for hours".

Mr. Grant added that apart from their obvious protective value blankets also cut caloric losses caused by the body's need to burn energy to keep warm. They could thus help conserve what nutrition was available to the individual.

He said nobody knew how many had died in Ethiopia over the past year but the figure undoubtedly was in the hundreds of thousands. It was equally clear that a large proportion of these

deaths had been children. National committees of UNICEF as well as governments have responded immediately to the appeal which has been supported in many countries by the media. The Japanese government for example is expecting to collect one million blankets from citizens and companies most of which will go to Ethiopia. The others are destined for Mozambique, Sudan and Somalia, where similar needs have been reported.

Within a few days of Mr. Grant's return from Ethiopia, UNICEF's National Committee in the Netherlands had collected \$400,000 to buy and airlift into Ethiopia 100,000 blankets from UNICEF's Copenhagen procurement centre and warehouse UNIPAC, virtually exhausting the warehouse's stock of blankets. Another 80,000 from Denmark arrived in Ethiopia and are already being distributed.

A further 200,000 to 300,000 blankets are expected over these few weeks from Japan. One Japanese company alone donated some 40,000 blankets last week. A large receiving centre has been established in downtown Tokyo.

In Italy UNICEF's National Committees appealed publicly for "A Christmas present to an Ethiopian child" 500,000 blankets



RELIEF SITE: Two survivors of the Ethiopian drought walk past the emergency feeding centre in Bati recently. The death toll mounts at the camp since many famine victims arrive too late to be helped and some infants are left in their tents without treatment because their mothers consider them beyond recovery (AP wireless photo)

plus a contribution of 4,000 lira (just over \$2) to cover the costs of packing and shipping each blanket. Hundreds of blankets are reported to be arriving at the provincial committee offices following newspaper, television and radio announcements.

In the United States, the UNICEF National Committee met the

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# Indian polls are defeat for U.S., Soviets say

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Sunday made plain its satisfaction with the Indian election result and portrayed the Congress (I) landslide as a defeat for the United States.

The state media heaped praise on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, saying the voters had chosen to follow the tradition of his mother Indira Gandhi and grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru.

The news agency TASS said the Congress win had thwarted plans for "reaction" in the West and in India to partition the country, and cited the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"The CIA's calculations... burst like a soap bubble," TASS said, in an article signed by news analyst Boris Cherkonin.

The Kremlin regarded Indira Gandhi as one of its closest friends in the developing world and the Soviet media hinted that the CIA was linked to her assassination on Oct. 31.

The daily Sovetskaya Rossiya quoted a CIA report written before the killing, predicting inter-communal violence and the break-up of the Congress (I) Party after she died.

"In that case victory (in the election) would have gone to the conservative opposition," the daily said. "The Indian people have

turned up the plans of the hostile external forces."

The Soviet Union regularly seeks to identify the United States with Sikh extremists and other Indian separatist groups.

All reports said the Congress (I) triumph would preserve India's independence, national unity and non-aligned role. They also stressed the past economic achievements of the party.

Only political commentator Alexander Bovin in the government daily Izvestia sounded a cautionary note. He discussed the difficulties facing India and referred to a need for land reform and action on unemployment and poverty.

The reports gave much of the credit for the win to Rajiv Gandhi himself. TASS described him as a talented and energetic leader able to solve the most complex state matters.

Pravda said he had carried out a brilliant campaign and the result was a personal political triumph, but it had no good words for the opposition.

"The elections really showed the complete bankruptcy of the opposition," the Communist Party daily said.

The Soviet press has not yet referred to the electoral performance of the two Communist parties, which lost seats to Congress in southern Kerala and West Bengal.

## Reagan, Nakasone to discuss trade problems, arms control this week

LOS ANGELES (R) — President Reagan and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone face persistent tough problems on trade and defence, and their meeting here this week is unlikely to produce immediate solutions.

Administration officials say progress has been made in the past year on resolving differences between the United States and its close ally, and they expect the favourable trend to continue when Mr. Reagan and Mr. Nakasone meet on Wednesday.

Despite pressure on Mr. Reagan to get tough at the Los Angeles talks on Japan's ballooning trade surplus with the United States, expected to hit a record \$35 billion this year, the president appears unwilling to take an aggressive stance.

"How can I get tough with a very good friend?" Mr. Reagan shot back in answer to a reporter's question in Washington before he flew to California for the New

Year holiday. He said Mr. Nakasone was "being most co-operative. But there is a long way to go yet and he knows it."

The two leaders, who have developed a close rapport during four previous meetings and reportedly on first name terms, will meet for about two-and-a-half hours on Wednesday.

Defence and peace issues and world economic problems were expected to arise although U.S.-Japan trade difficulties probably would dominate administration sources said.

Mr. Nakasone has stressed the importance of Western solidarity for success in the arms control talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva next week.

He is likely to reiterate concern about Soviet SS-20 missiles targeted on Asia and seek assurances that any arms deal struck

between Washington and Moscow would not allow the Soviet Union to re-target weapons now aimed at Western Europe.

Earlier this year Japan raised its defence budget by 6.55 per cent, and Sunday it was announced in Tokyo that the defence budget would be raised by a further 6.9 per cent in 1985.

Diplomatic analysts in Tokyo said Mr. Nakasone's decision would please Washington, which has been calling on Japan to play a bigger role in defending itself.

But the Pentagon also complains that Japan has been slow to implement a year-old agreement to share defence technology.

Longstanding trade problems remain a major irritant and have contributed to what U.S. Commerce Undersecretary Lionel Olmer calls the "grotesque" U.S. world trade deficit — expected to reach a record \$130 billion in 1984.

## Lack of inhibition worries Gandhi's bodyguards

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, swept back to power in general elections, has already caused anxiety among his bodyguards because of his informal style at public rallies celebrating his victory.

Security, discreet but always heavy around Mr. Gandhi, was tightened in the closing days of his election campaign after threats to assassinate him were reported by police less than two months after the murder of his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi.

But at a victory rally held on a traffic junction near his residence Saturday, Mr. Gandhi alarmed bodyguards when he stepped down from a dais and waded through two rings of security men into a delirious crowd of about 2,000 supporters.

Mr. Gandhi, 40, accepted flowers and shook hands as people pushed forward to touch him and the guards frantically tried to form a protective barrier around him.

Mr. Gandhi finally headed back towards his bullet-proof car, to the visible relief of the security men.

Earlier, while making a brief victory speech at the rally, Mr. Gandhi was flanked by triumphant Congress (I) Party candidates who, however, looked uneasy about his exposed position and constantly gestured to supporters to remain calm.

On his hectic three-week campaign tour before the polls, Mr. Gandhi's air force helicopter was tailed by another carrying security men wearing suits and carrying concealed weapons. They were identified by tiny metal badges.

At most election rallies, two watchful guards took up positions on either side of Mr. Gandhi when he stood up to speak.

But he was clearly ill at ease with his protectors and often insisted on driving through huge crowds, standing in an open jeep and stopping to speak to individual supporters.

Mr. Gandhi, who took over as prime minister hours after Indira Gandhi was assassinated on Oct. 31 by two Sikh bodyguards, is emerging as the most closely protected Indian leader since independence in 1947.

Crack uniformed commandos of the Paramilitary Special Security Force, armed with automatic weapons, have also been serving with his bodyguard.

Meanwhile a record 41 women won seats in the new Indian Parliament in national elections which gave Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party an unprecedented majority.

Mr. Siles Zuazo swore in Gen. Raul Lopez Leyton Saturday afternoon as the new army chief and

later told reporters the political and military situation was under control.

"What happened today has been brought under control by the awareness among some military elements that you cannot install a government that is not representative of popular feeling, liberty and revolutionary democracy," he said.

Gen. Olvis Arias issued a statement rejecting the appointment of Gen. Lopez Leyton as an attempt to split the military.

The rebel general also said he had received messages of support

from garrisons throughout the country, including an armoured car regiment which was ready to carry out his orders.

Gen. Lopez Leyton, regarded as a staunch believer in democracy, told a news conference he would take up his post after the new year holiday and deal with the dispute calmly and according to the rules and regulations.

Gen. Olvis Arias has been accused by leftist politicians of involvement in an attempted coup in June when Mr. Siles Zuazo was briefly abducted.

Most officers are now drawn from about 100 military academies that the PLA has established.

The army is gradually being changed into a more professional force from the highly politicised and privileged body it was under the late Chairman Mao.

Mr. Deng, who according to diplomats is worried the army still does not fully back his industrial modernisation programme, has called on the PLA to fall in behind civilian reforms.

The army has been asked to produce civilian consumer goods at its under-used ordnance factories, and older men who are not in favour of the reforms must leave.

Yang Dezhi, head of the PLA General Staff, called on old comrades this summer to help new men "mount their horses and ride with them part of the way."



ARAFAT EMBRACES QAWASMEH'S SON: Fahd Al Qawasme, upon arrival at Mr. Qawasme's residence in Amman Sunday (Petra photo) year-old son of the murdered Mayor of Hebron.

## Kampuchean rebels set to retake camp

NONG SAMET, Thailand (R) — Heavy fighting raged Sunday as Kampuchean guerrillas appeared to be recapturing their Nong Samet Base which had been overrun by Vietnamese troops, Thai military officials said.

They said lightly-armed Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KNLF) guerrillas, battling Vietnamese troops, tanks and artillery, retook parts of the border stronghold in furious fighting this morning.

Wounded guerrillas pulled out of the fighting told reporters at the border they launched a two-pronged attack to drive out the Vietnamese, who seized large areas of the camp on Dec. 25.

Guerrilla medical workers said casualties were high on both sides. By this afternoon doctors of the Red Cross (ICRC) had treated 90 wounded guerrillas.

The guerrillas said many more had been given first aid or were waiting to be evacuated from the battle area which extended all along the camp's eastern perimeter.

They predicted casualties would rise further as fighting continued into the night.

At least 30 guerrillas were killed trying to retake the camp's Buddhist temple and military staff quarters, they said.

Thai soldiers manning border defences opposite the battle area said Sunday's fighting and casualties were the heaviest they had seen.

Guerrilla sources said they disabled at least two Vietnamese tanks at Nong Samet Sunday.

For six hours this morning, Vietnamese shelling of the base was so intense that United Nations relief volunteers were forbidden to enter a temporary civilian evacuation site inside Thailand about three kilometres from the fighting.

Thai military officials and KNLF sources estimated about 3,400 guerrillas and more than 1,000 Vietnamese troops backed by artillery, tanks and armoured personnel carriers were involved in the battle.

During lulls in the fighting guerrillas picked up truckloads of wounded and took them to a nearby treatment site or a hospital deeper inside Thailand.

Most of the wounded appeared to have been hit by shrapnel or bullets in the head and chest.

Vietnamese shells landed twice on Thai territory this morning, prompting Thai artillery to respond with warning shots.

The KNLF headquarters at Ampil, 25 kilometres from Nong Samet, was quiet but tense. Most of Ampil's 23,000 civilians were evacuated to a site at the camp's exit to Thailand and dug foxholes in anticipation of an attack.

Thai troops and planes Sunday repelled Vietnamese soldiers who crossed into Thailand while fighting to hold a captured guerrilla base on the Kampuchean border.

They described the cross-border incursion as minor and said all the Vietnamese had been pushed back but declined to give details.

KNLF sources said up to 300 Vietnamese troops crossed into Surin province's Ban Kraud district during fighting for control of the camp at Obok, about 200 kilometres north east of here.

KNLF sources said guerrillas were also battling from the Kampuchean side of the border to retake Obok, which fell to the Vietnamese on Dec. 25.

Obok was seized in the same Vietnamese thrust that overran a sprawling KNLF camp at Nong Samet on the Thai border and a Khmer Rouge base at Phnom Tuol.

PARIS (R) — About 65,000 Parisians were blocked out for up to 16 hours Saturday by electricity cuts caused by a major fire at a generating station in the centre of the city, the Industry Ministry said.

Many people shivered indoors in their darkened flats while shops lit their wares by candlelight, giving the streets a turn-of-the-century appearance. In one street musicians formed an impromptu band to entertain people deprived of television.

Kidnapped shoe executive released

LA PAZ (R) — Kidnappers released a shoe-company director Saturday after his company paid a ransom of about \$500,000, official and company sources said.

Antonio Van Ess, director of the Bolivian subsidiary of the Bata Shoe Company, was released unharmed eight days after the abduction in which his housekeeper was shot dead, officials in the central city of Cochabamba told reporters.

Diet expert dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Diet expert Gaylord Hauser, who preached good health through natural foods and included Greta Garbo and other film stars among his disciples, died on Wednesday at the age of 89. A family spokesman said that Hauser, who battled for years with doctors who scoffed at his methods, died in his Hollywood home of complications from pneumonia. His books sold in more than 40 languages and in the 1930s his theories were taken up by members of European society and by film stars.

1.2 million unable to get air tickets

PEKING (R) — Civil aviation planners admitted Sunday that China's air traffic was so congested this year that more than one million people were unable to obtain tickets. They promised a 46.2 per cent increase in domestic flights and a 30 per cent boost in international flights in 1985. The official New China News Agency (NCNA) quoted them as saying Chinese Airlines would carry 6.5 million people next year, 18 per cent more than in 1984. The state-run China Civil Aviation Administration said about 1.2 million people could not get air tickets this year. It said that with the introduction of more flights and new routes, priority would be given to serving 14 coastal cities earmarked by the government for foreign investment, industrial growth. International flights to Japan would be reased, the planners said.

China sees thaw in U.S.-Soviet relations next year

PEKING (R) — A thaw in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union is likely next year, the official New China News Agency (NCNA) said Sunday in its year-end assessment.

The two superpowers had been forced to resume talks on reducing their nuclear arsenals for essentially economic reasons, it said.

Massive military spending by both sides was putting a big strain on their economies and had led them to resume their dialogue at Geneva next month.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met for talks on Jan. 7-8 to discuss the possibility of fresh arms reduction negotiations and limitations on weapons in space.

"With the thaw in Soviet-U.S. relations, those between Western and Eastern Europe and between Western Europe and the Soviet Union may improve to some extent and relations between the West and East may also ease somewhat in 1985," the agency predicted.

But it said that nevertheless "the world situation would remain grim."

Meanwhile China has announced the resignation of about 40 senior army officers to help rejuvenate and modernise its four million strong armed forces.

The Liberation Army Daily said Saturday that the senior officers, some ranking just below the chief and deputy chiefs of the general staff, quit earlier this month to make way for younger men.

Most of the senior officers, all serving at the general staff headquarters, were aged over 60.

Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Xu Xin, described them as open-minded people, echoing a phrase by China's top leader Deng Xiaoping.



## Pakistan imposes restrictions for New Year's eve

KARACHI (R) — Spiked soft drinks, scantily-clad singers and other vulgarity offensive to Pakistan's Islamic Laws will not be allowed at New Year's eve parties in Karachi, local newspapers reported Sunday. They said officials warned, hotels, clubs and restaurants against offering such attractions after noticing some places were advertising racy floor shows to greet the New Year. Strict action would be taken against any establishment allowing vulgarity, obscenity or nudity on its premises, they said. The authorities also warned against drinking, saying they had recently learned guests were managing to have waiters in some clubs serve them alcohol in soft drinks.

## '1984 has been safest year for air travel'

LONDON (R) — This year has been the safest ever for air travellers, a British consultancy firm said. Alan Smith, managing director of Aviation Information Services Limited, said statistics showed only two people died in jet plane crashes in 1984 compared with 992 the previous year. The figures covered all scheduled and charter flights in the world, outside the Soviet Bloc. Smith, who has been collating accident statistics since 1958, told Reuters this year's figure was more of a statistical freak than an indication of improved air safety. Only seven aircraft were written off in 1984, compared with 28 last year.

## 65,000 Parisians suffer power cut

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## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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### EVEN EXPERTS LOSE TRICKS

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH  
♦ K J 85  
♦ A 86  
♦ Q J 92  
♦ Q 8

WEST EAST  
♦ A 432 ♦ 6  
♦ Q J 5 432 ♦ K 109  
♦ Void ♦ K 107 43  
♦ A 95 ♦ K 106 4

SOUTH  
♦ A 1097  
♦ 7  
♦ A 865  
♦ J 732

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass Pass 1 ♥ Dble  
2 NT 4 ♦ Dble Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

By winning the Trials last month in Memphis, the team of Malcolm Brachman, Bobby Goldman, Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Ron Andersen, all of Dallas, and Paul Soloway of Bothell, Wash., qualified to represent the U.S. in the World Team Olympiad, to be held in Seattle in October. In the final they defeated Edgar Kaplan, Philadelphia, Bill Root, Boca Raton, Fla., Richard Pavlicek, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Jeff Meckstroth, Pinkerton, Ohio, and Eric Rodwell, Indianapolis over 128 boards in a match that was close until the final stretch.

When the players held today's hand, Soloway and Goldman, sitting North-South, reached four spades on the auction shown. (East's no trump jump after the takeout double was a limit raise in hearts.) While the

only sure losers are two clubs and a diamond, the 4-1 trump break combined with the 5-0 diamond split is more than declarer can handle, so one down would seem to be the normal result.

Declarer won the ace of hearts and immediately ran the queen of diamonds. West ruffed and now it looks as if routine defense will defeat the contract two tricks — the defenders are entitled to two club tricks and a diamond, and declarer will be hard pressed to escape another loser if West exits passively with a trump.

Instead, West chose to underlead his ace of clubs. The idea was that if East held the king-jack of clubs, both cards would score two diamond ruffs. Unfortunately, East elected to play his partner for the ace of clubs, and he inserted the 10 of clubs. Declarer won the jack and returned the suit. All would still have been well had West risen with the ace and returned a club. But West placed declarer with the king of clubs, so he took his ace and exited with a heart.

Declarer now played masterfully to make his game. He ruffed the heart with the nine of spades, led the seven of trumps to dummy's eight and ruffed the last heart with his ace. A spade to the jack enabled declarer to draw trumps, and the only other trick for the defense was a diamond.

## Rebels launch rocket attacks on Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebels bombarded Kabul with rockets for at least five consecutive nights despite heavy security to foil attacks on the fifth anniversary of Soviet military intervention. Western diplomats said Sunday.

First reports from the Afghan capital said the attacks began on Monday, three days before the Dec. 27 anniversary, and continued at least until Friday, the diplomats told journalists.

The diplomats reported only one casualty. But Peshawar-based guerrillas, quoting reports from couriers, said more than a dozen Soviet and Afghan soldiers were killed.

At least 16 rockets or mortar bombs slammed into the capital on Dec. 26, hitting the main Shahid Shamshera Mosque and a school and setting fire to a paper warehouse in central Kabul, said the diplomats, who asked not to be identified.

An Afghan teacher was killed on Dec. 25 when a rocket hit his house in the Shar-E-Nau district, they said.

On Dec. 27, witnesses saw rockets flying over Shar-E-Nau, a residential neighbourhood where many foreigners live, and heard tank and machinegun fire and shouting nearby.

Explosions were heard on the nights of Dec. 24 and 28 from the direction of Darulaman, where Soviet military headquarters and the Afghan Defence Ministry are located, and the old Bala Hissar Fort where Soviet and Afghan forces are stationed, the diplomats added.

The diplomats and guerrillas reported heavy security in the Kabul. Spotter planes and helicopters hovered over the airport to thwart attacks and there were stringent checks on people entering and leaving the city.



# Pricing splits OPEC ranks

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# Indian polls are defeat for U.S., Soviets say

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Sunday made plain its satisfaction with the Indian election result and portrayed the Congress (I) landslide as a defeat for the United States.

The state media heaped praise on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, saying the voters had chosen to follow the tradition of his mother, Indira Gandhi, and grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru.

The news agency TASS said the Congress win had thwarted plans for "reaction" in the West and in India to partition the country, and cited the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"The CIA's calculations ... burst like a soap bubble," TASS said, in an article signed by news analyst Boris Cherkonin.

The Kremlin regarded Indira Gandhi as one of its closest friends in the developing world and the Soviet media hinted that the CIA was linked to her assassination on Oct. 31.

The daily Sovetskaya Rossiya quoted a CIA report written before the killing, predicting inter-communal violence and the break-up of the Congress (I) Party after she died.

"In that case victory (in the election) would have gone to the conservative opposition," the daily said. "The Indian people have

turned up the plans of the hostile external forces."

The Soviet Union regularly seeks to identify the United States with Sikh extremists and other Indian separatist groups.

All reports said the Congress (I) triumph would preserve India's independence, national unity and non-aligned role. They also stressed the past economic achievements of the party.

Only political commentator Alexander Babin in the government daily Izvestia sounded a cautionary note. He discussed the difficulties facing India and referred to a need for land reform and action on unemployment and poverty.

The reports gave much of the credit for the win to Rajiv Gandhi himself. TASS described him as a talented and energetic leader able to solve the most complex state matters.

Pravda said he had carried out a brilliant campaign and the result was a personal political triumph, but it had no good words for the opposition.

"The elections really showed the complete bankruptcy of the opposition," the Communist Party daily said.

The Soviet press has not yet referred to the electoral performance of the two Communist parties, which lost seats to Congress in southern Kerala and West Bengal.



ARAFAT EMBRACES QAWASMEH'S SON: Fakh Al Qawasme, upon arrival at Mr. Qawasme's residence in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

## Kampuchean rebels set to retake camp

NONG SAMET, Thailand (R) — Heavy fighting raged Sunday as Kampuchean guerrillas appeared to be recapturing their Nong Samet Base which had been overrun by Vietnamese troops, Thai military officials said.

They said lightly-armed Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) guerrillas, battling Vietnamese troops, tanks and artillery, retook parts of the border stronghold in furious fighting this morning.

Wounded guerrillas pulled out of the fighting told reporters at the border they launched a two-pronged attack to drive out the Vietnamese, who seized large areas of the camp on Dec. 25.

Guerrilla medical workers said casualties were high on both sides. By this afternoon doctors of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had treated 90 wounded guerrillas.

The guerrillas said many more had been given first aid or were waiting to be evacuated from the battle area which extended all along the camp's eastern perimeter.

They predicted casualties would rise further as fighting continued into the night.

At least 30 guerrillas were killed trying to retake the camp's Buddhist temple and military staff quarters, they said.

Thai soldiers manning border defences opposite the battle area said Sunday's fighting and casualties were the heaviest they had seen.

Guerrilla sources said they disabled at least two Vietnamese tanks at Nong Samet Sunday.

For six hours this morning, Vietnamese shelling of the base was so intense that United Nations relief volunteers were forbidden to enter a temporary civilian evacuation site inside Thailand about three kilometres from the fighting.

Thai military officials and KPNLF sources estimated about 3,400 guerrillas and more than 1,000 Vietnamese troops backed by artillery, tanks and armoured personnel carriers were involved in the battle.

During lulls in the fighting guerrillas picked up truckloads of wounded and took them to a nearby treatment site or a hospital deeper inside Thailand.

Most of the wounded appeared to have been hit by shrapnel or bullets in the head and chest.

Vietnamese shells landed twice on Thai territory this morning, prompting Thai artillery to respond with warning shots.

The KPNLF headquarters at Ampil, 25 kilometres from Nong Samet, was quiet but tense. Most of Ampil's 23,000 civilians were evacuated to a site at the camp's exit to Thailand and dug foxholes in anticipation of an attack.

Thai troops and planes Sunday repelled Vietnamese soldiers who crossed into Thailand while fighting to hold a captured guerrilla base on the Kampuchean border. Thai military officials said.

They described the cross-border incursion as minor and said all the Vietnamese had been pushed back but declined to give details.

KPNLF sources said up to 300 Vietnamese troops crossed into Surin province's Ban Kruad district during fighting for control of the camp at Obok, about 200 kilometres north east of here.

KPNLF sources said guerrillas were also battling from the Kampuchean side of the border to retake Obok, which fell to the Vietnamese on Dec. 25.

Obok was seized in the same Vietnamese thrust that overran a sprawling KPNLF camp at Nong Samet on the Thai border and a Khmer Rouge base at Phnom Tuol.

## Reagan, Nakasone to discuss trade problems, arms control this week

LOS ANGELES (R) — President Reagan and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone face persistent tough problems on trade and defence, and their meeting here this week is unlikely to produce immediate solutions.

Administration officials say progress has been made in the past year on resolving differences between the United States and its close ally and they expect the favourable trend to continue when Mr. Reagan and Mr. Nakasone meet on Wednesday.

Despite pressure on Mr. Reagan to get tough at the Los Angeles talks on Japan's ballooning trade surplus with the United States, expected to hit a record \$35 billion this year, the president appears unwilling to take an aggressive stance.

"How can I get tough with a very good friend?" Mr. Reagan shot back in answer to a reporter's question in Washington before he flew to California for the New Year holiday.

He said Mr. Nakasone was "being most co-operative. But there is a long way to go yet and he knows it."

The two leaders, who have developed a close rapport during four previous meetings and reportedly on first name terms, will meet for about two-and-a-half hours on Wednesday.

Defence and peace issues and world economic problems were expected to arise although U.S.-Japan trade difficulties probably would dominate, administration sources said.

Mr. Nakasone has stressed the importance of Western solidarity for success in the arms control talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva next week.

He is likely to reiterate concern about Soviet SS-20 missiles targeted on Asia and seek assurances that any arms deal struck

between Washington and Moscow would not allow the Soviet Union to re-target weapons now aimed at Western Europe.

Earlier this year Japan raised its defence budget by 6.55 per cent, and Sunday it was announced the defence budget would be raised by a further 6.9 per cent in 1985.

Diplomatic analysts in Tokyo said Mr. Nakasone's decision would please Washington, which has been calling on Japan to play a bigger role in defending itself.

But the Pentagon also complains that Japan has been slow to implement a year-old agreement to share defence technology.

Longstanding trade problems remain a major irritant and have contributed to what U.S. Commerce Undersecretary Lionel Omer calls the "grotesque" U.S. world trade deficit — expected to reach a record \$130 billion in 1984.

## Lack of inhibition worries Gandhi's bodyguards

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, swept back to power in general elections, has already caused anxiety among his bodyguards because of his informal style at public rallies celebrating his victory.

Security, discreet but always heavy around Mr. Gandhi, was tightened in the closing days of his election campaign after threats to assassinate him were reported by police less than two months after the murder of his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi.

But at a victory rally held on a traffic junction near his residence Saturday, Mr. Gandhi alarmed bodyguards when he stepped down from a dais and waded through two rings of security men into a delirious crowd of about 2,000 supporters.

Mr. Gandhi, 40, accepted flowers and shook hands as people pushed forward to touch him and the guards frantically tried to form a protective barrier around him.

Mr. Gandhi finally headed back towards his bullet-proof car, to the visible relief of the security men. Earlier, while making a brief victory speech at the rally, Mr. Gandhi was flanked by triumphant Congress (I) Party candidates who, however, looked uneasy about his exposed position and constantly gestured to supporters to remain calm.

On his hectic three-week campaign tour before the polls, Mr. Gandhi's air force helicopter was tailed by another carrying security men wearing suits and carrying concealed weapons. They were identified by tiny metal badges.

At most election rallies, two watchful guards took up positions on either side of Mr. Gandhi when he stood up to speak.

But he was clearly ill at ease with his protectors and often insisted on driving through huge crowds, standing in an open jeep and stopping to speak to individual supporters.

Mr. Gandhi, who took over as prime minister hours after Indira Gandhi was assassinated on Oct. 31 by two Sikh bodyguards, is emerging as the most closely-protected Indian leader since independence in 1947.

Crack uniformed commandos of the Paramilitary Special Security Force, armed with automatic weapons, have also been serving with his bodyguard.

Meanwhile a record 41 women won seats in the new Indian Parliament in national elections which gave Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party an unprecedented majority.

## Korean nuclear plant closed after leak

SEOUL (R) — One of South Korea's three nuclear power plants has been closed for more than a month after radioactive cooling water leaked from its reactor. Seoul newspapers reported Sunday.

South Korean officials said the reports were correct but declined any immediate further comment.

The Chosun Ilbo said about 24 tonnes of cooling water seeped out of a steam generator pipe at the plant in the southern town of Wolsung during a safety check on Nov. 25.

It said radiation pollution was prevented by a team of specialists from the Technology Ministry and Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) who were sent in after the leak.

The Hankuk Ilbo said the leak was caused by a short-circuit of valves and the radiation level in and around the reactor had returned to normal.

The paper quoted KEPCO officials as saying the plant was expected to be in operation again by the middle of next month.

The 678,700-kilowatt plant, equipped with a Canadian "Candu" pressurised heavy water

reactor, was built at a cost of \$1.18 billion. It went into operation in April last year.

About 17 per cent of South Korea's electricity is now produced by nuclear power and the bill will rise to 47 per cent when six other atomic plants go into service by 1989.

Energy Minister Choi Dong-Kyu told a parliamentary committee in October the government would reinforce safety measures at nuclear power stations.

He said there were plans to build a plant to dispose of nuclear waste and form a safety task force.

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The diplomats and guerrillas reported heavy security in the Kabul. Spotter planes and helicopters hovered over the airport to thwart attacks and there were stringent checks on people entering and leaving the city.

## Ershad dismisses referendum prospect

DHAKA (R) — President Hossein Mohammad Ershad dismissed prospects of a referendum on his policies and said Sunday he would stick to his plans for parliamentary elections in April as a step towards restoring democracy in Bangladesh.

"I am determined to hold the elections to parliament because that's what I have promised to the nation," he told a public rally near the western town of Thakurgaon.

"Any other method to reach our objective is risky and fraught with danger."

Gen. Ershad renewed his commitment to parliamentary polls next April a day after the main opposition groups said they would resist moves for a referendum as a subtle attempt to perpetuate military rule.

A local news agency, Ena, which had quoted highly-placed official sources as saying a referendum was possible, said it would be aimed at seeking a mandate on the government's moves to decentralise administration.

Gen. Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless military coup in March 1982, set up 460 local bodies at sub-district level which he said would be run by elected members.

But he was forced to put off elections to the upazilas (sub-districts) last March after a major opposition campaign to resist the polls.

The opposition said the sub-district elections were part of a plan to consolidate the military rule and satisfy the political ambitions of some generals.

Gen. Ershad told Sunday's rally that the opposition had resorted to "negative politics because they are afraid of elections."

He said a peoples government would have emerged if politicians had not campaigned against the sub-district polls and boycotted parliamentary elections for which dates had been announced three

times in the past.

"They profess democracy, but practice autocracy, whereas a soldier like me has always stood for democracy," Gen. Ershad said.

Meanwhile Tribal insurgents in south eastern Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts kidnapped 17 people and later released five of them on payment of ransom, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The Bengali-language newspaper Ittefaq said those released included the chairman of a local government body in the Hill Tracts, 350 kilometres south east of Dhaka.

Hill Tracts police contacted by telephone confirmed the kidnapping on Dec. 23 and said efforts were being made to secure the release of the 12 others still held hostage.

The tribal insurgents have been waging a war against Dhaka for about 10 years, seeking independence for the 13,000 square kilometre area.

## Bolivian leader replaces army chief

LA PAZ (R) — Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo has replaced the chief of the army after charges he was plotting a coup but the officer refused to quit and entrenched himself with a cavalry regiment in military headquarters.

Gen. Jose Olvis Arias, who union sources alleged had intended to stage a coup Saturday, told reporters he refused to yield the post he assumed for a two-year term in October.

Mr. Siles Zuazo swore in Gen. Raul Lopez Leyton Saturday afternoon as the new army chief and later told reporters the political and military situation was under control.

"What happened today has been brought under control by the awareness among some military elements that you cannot install a government that is not representative of popular feeling, liberty and revolutionary democracy," he said.

Gen. Olvis Arias issued a statement rejecting the appointment of Gen. Lopez Leyton as an attempt to split the military.

The rebel general also said he had received messages of support from garrisons throughout the country, including an armoured car regiment which was ready to carry out his orders.

Gen. Lopez Leyton, regarded as a staunch believer in democracy, told a news conference he would take up his post after the new year holiday and deal with the dispute calmly and according to the rules and regulations.

Gen. Olvis Arias has been accused by leftist politicians of involvement in an attempted coup in June when Mr. Siles Zuazo was briefly abducted.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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### EVEN EXPERTS LOSE TRICKS

Both vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ K J 8 5  
♦ A 8 6  
♦ Q J 9 2  
♦ Q 8

**WEST**  
♦ Q 4 3 2  
♦ J 5 4 3 2  
♦ A 10 9  
♦ A 9 5

**EAST**  
♦ K 10 9  
♦ K 10 7 4 3  
♦ K 10 6 4  
♦ A 10 9 7  
♦ 7  
♦ A 8 6 5  
♦ J 7 3 2

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass Pass 1 ♥ Dble  
2 NT 4 ♣ Dble Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

By winning the Trials last month in Memphis, the team of Malcolm Brachman, Bobby Goldman, Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Ron Andersen, all of Dallas, and Paul Soloway of Bothell, Wash., qualified to represent the U.S. in the World Team Olympiad, to be held in Seattle in October. In the final they defeated Edgar Kaplan, New York, Norman Kay, Philadelphia, Bill Root, Boca Raton, Fla., Richard Pavlicek, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Jeff Meckstroth, Pinkerton, Ohio, and Eric Rodwell, Indianapolis over 128 boards in a match that was close until the final stretch.

When the players held today's hand, Soloway and Goldman, sitting North-South, reached four spades on the auction shown. (East's no trump jump after the takeout double was a limit raise in hearts.) While the

only sure losers are two clubs and a diamond, the 4-1 trump break combined with the 5-0 diamond split is more than declarer can handle, so one down would seem to be the normal result.

Declarer won the ace of spades and immediately ran the queen of diamonds. West ruffed and now it looks as if routine defense will defeat the contract two tricks—the defenders are entitled to two club tricks and a diamond, and declarer will be hard pressed to escape another loser if West exits passively with a trump.

Instead, West chose to underlead his ace of clubs. The idea was that if East held the king-jack of clubs, both cards would be entries and West could score two diamond ruffs. Unfortunately, East elected to play his partner for the ace of trumps rather than the ace of clubs, and he inserted the 10 of clubs. Declarer won the jack and returned the suit. All would still have been well had West risen with the ace and returned a club. But West placed declarer with the king of clubs, so he took his ace and exited with a heart.

Declarer now played masterfully to make his game. He ruffed the heart with the nine of spades, led the seven of trumps to dummy's eight and ruffed the last heart with his ace. A spade to the jack enabled declarer to draw trumps, and the only other trick for the defense was a diamond.

## Pakistan imposes restrictions for New Year's eve

KARACHI (R) — Spiked soft drinks, scantily-clad singers and other vulgarities offensive to Pakistan's Islamic Laws will not be allowed at New Year's eve parties in Karachi, local newspapers reported Sunday. They said officials warned hotels, clubs and restaurants against offering such attractions after noticing some places were advertising racy floor shows to greet the New Year. Strict action would be taken against any establishment allowing vulgarities, obscenity or nudity on its premises, they said. The authorities also warned against drinking, saying they had recently learned guests were managing to have waiters in some clubs serve them alcohol in soft drinks.

## '1984 has been safest year for air travel'

LONDON (R) — This year has been the safest ever for air travellers, a British consultancy firm said. Alan Smith, managing director of Aviation Information Services Limited, said statistics showed only two people died in jet plane crashes in 1984 compared with 992 the previous year. The figures covered all scheduled and charter flights in the world, outside the Soviet Bloc. Smith, who has been collating accident statistics since 1958, told Reuters this year's figure was more of statistical freak than an indication of improved air safety. Only seven aircraft were written off in 1984, compared with 28 last year.

## 65,000 Parisians suffer power cut

PARIS (R) — About 65,000 Parisians were blacked out for up to 16 hours Saturday by electricity cuts caused by a major fire at a generating station in the centre of the city, the Industry Ministry said. Many people shivered indoors in their darkened flats while shops lit their wares by candlelight, giving the streets a turn-of-the-century appearance. In one street musicians formed an impromptu band to entertain people deprived of television.

## Kidnapped shoe executive released

LA PAZ (R) — Kidnappers released a shoe-company director Saturday after his company paid a ransom of about \$500,000, official and company sources said. Antonio Van Ess, director of the Bolivian subsidiary of the Bata Shoe Company, was released unharmed eight days after the abduction in which his housekeeper was shot dead, officials in the central city of Cochabamba told reporters.

## Diet expert dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Diet expert Gayelord Hauser, who preached good health through natural foods and included Greta Garbo and other film stars among his disciples, died on Wednesday at the age of 89. A family spokesman said that Hauser, who battled for years with doctors who scoffed at his methods, died in his Hollywood home of complications from pneumonia. His books sold in more than 40 languages and in the 1930s his theories were taken up by members of European society and by film stars.

## 1.2 million unable to get air tickets

PEKING (R) — Civil aviation planners admitted Sunday that China's air traffic was so congested this year that more than one million people were unable to obtain tickets. They promised a 46.2 per cent increase in domestic flights and a 30 per cent boost in international flights in 1985. The official New China News Agency (NCNA) quoted them as saying Chinese Airlines would carry 6.5 million people next year, 18 per cent more than in 1984. The state-run China Civil Aviation Administration said about 1.2 million people could not get air tickets this year. It said that with the introduction of more flights and new routes, priority would be given to serving 14 coastal cities earmarked by the government centres for foreign investment, industrial growth. International flights to Japan would be reased, the planners said.

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